Monday, February 6, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 68 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ to 2899 (globe/TM) to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Inquirer 24/7 Facebook Twitter: @inquirer

Donaire decisions foe, wins 4th title

NONITO DONAIRE JR. knocked down Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. in the ninth round to highlight his domination of the former Puerto Rican champion but had to settle for a split decision in grabbing the vacant WBO super bantamweight crown—his fourth division title—on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila) at Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Debuting in the 122-pound division, the 29-year-old Donaire staggered Vazquez with a left uppercut and dropped him with a left overhand late in the ninth. The Puerto Rican rose quickly, smiling as the referee gave him a standing eight-count.

Despite the impressive show that had judges Levi Martinez and Don Trella both scoring it 117-110 for Donaire, the third judge, Ruben Garcia, saw it 115-112 for the 27-year-old son of three-division champion

DONAIRE A20

THE PHILIPPINES' Nonito Donaire Jr. punches the face of Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. in the fifth round of their WBO super bantamweight title fight in San Antonio, Texas. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

EMPTY-HANDED Alicia "Vicki" Arroyo, estranged wife of Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, arrives at Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a flight from London without the lawmaker's body. GERALD SANTOS

Senate takes up CJ bank records

Caucus to decide on subpoenas

By Cathy Yamsuan and Marlon Ramos

SENATOR-JUDGES will decide before the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona resumes this afternoon whether to subpoena documents supposedly pertaining to his bank accounts in at least two Philippine banks.

The senators are also expected to discuss whether they would summon several associate justices of the Supreme Court to testify on the tribunal's flip-flopping on certain cases.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said restrictions on the bank secrecy law would normally prohibit investigators from issuing a subpoena that would require a witness to produce documents related to Corona's bank accounts.

Prosecutors from the House of Representatives earlier listed five accounts, supposedly owned by Corona, with BPI Family Bank and Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank). But only one bank account on the list provided to Senate reporters had a specific number allegedly traced to Corona.

The prosecutors said Corona's failure to disclose these in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) made him liable for nondisclosure of assets—an offense specified in Article 2 of the verified complaint against the Chief Justice.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile expressed hesitation when initially asked about the

SENATE A11

P-Noy falls back on myth of Potemkin villages

By Amando Doronila

FACED WITH setbacks in its prosecution of Chief Justice Renato Corona at the Senate impeachment trial and under fire for its dismal performance in economic management, the Aquino administration has fallen back on "Potemkin village" projects that look good on paper but are sham in results.

ANALYSIS

The term "Potemkin villages" derives from fake settlements built by the Russian minister, Prince Grigory Potemkin, to fool Empress Catherine the Great during her visit to the Ukraine and Crimea in 1787.

According to one claim, Potemkin "had hollow facades of villages constructed along the desolate banks of the

P-NOY A22

Iggy daughter to bring dad home, says Mike A

By Gil Cabacungan and Jacelyn R. Uy

THE REMAINS of Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo will be brought home by his eldest child, Bianca, and not by his estranged second wife Alicia "Vicki" Arroyo or his longtime companion Grace Ibuna, the lawmaker's brother said yesterday.

In a phone interview, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, husband of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, said Bianca was scheduled to talk with the London coroner today to seek the release of his younger brother's body, which would be flown into the country intact and not cremated.

Bianca is the only child of Iggy and his first wife, Marilyn Jackets, sister of entertainer Ramon "RJ" Jackets.

But lawyer Lorna Kapunan, Ateli's legal counsel, said Bianca would not take charge of repatriating his father's body because Ibuna had obtained a court order in the United Kingdom declaring her Iggy's next of kin and barring Ateli from

BIANCA A6

Big chill comes late in Metro; La Niña blamed

By Kristine L. Alave and Inquirer Northern Luzon

YOU CAN still sit around in your favorite sweater or cuddle up around bonfires. The big, belated chill is here.

Expect early mornings and late evenings to be cooler across the country due to the peaking winter season as the northern hemisphere which in turn intensifies the nippy northeast monsoon, the state weather office said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said minimum temperatures in

BIG CHILL A13

Solicitor General Cadiz quits, says De Lima

By Marlon Ramos

SOLICITOR GENERAL Jose Anselmo Cadiz has resigned, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said last night.

In a text message, De Lima said Cadiz "personally tendered his letter of resignation" to President Aquino on Friday "When I know is that he wants to go back to private practice," De Lima said.

Another senior Malacañang source confirmed the news that Cadiz had quit the Cabinet but the official did not want to be identified for lack of authority to talk to the media.

Another senior government official said Cadiz would likely be replaced by lawyer Francis Jardeleza, the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

De Lima declined to give other details, saying she would rather wait for Malacañang's official announcement.

"I was surprised. But I respect Joel's decision to go back to private practice," she said.

The Inquirer sought Cadiz's comment, but he did not answer calls and text messages to his mobile phone.

Mr. Aquino appointed Cadiz solicitor general on July 29, 2010.

A University of the Philippines law graduate and a former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Cadiz was a retired labor lawyer before he joined the Aquino administration.

LEARNING
2 valedictory speeches in December / H1

WORLD
Romney gets solid victory in Nevada primary / A27

ACROSS
Ebdane son wins special Zambales election / A20
4 large-scale mining firms in Caraga under MGB probe / A18

Inquirer e-books out on Kindle

By JV Rufino
Director, Inquirer Mobile

FOLLOWING the release of its first electronic books on its Digital Newsstand, the Inquirer Group is now making its e-books available for the first time on the Amazon Kindle platform.

"With Due Respect: Selected

INQUIRER A12

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Top terrorists may have evaded bombs

SECURITY officials have given different accounts of whether or not top Southeast Asian terror suspects Zulkifli bin Hir from Malaysia and Abdullah Ali from Singapore were killed in a recent military air strike on an Abu Sayyaf hideout in Jolo.

But a single body was retrieved by police from the hilly jungle that some Lanao Dakalah-fueling speculation on just who had been killed.

Regional military commander Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes on Thursday said that Bin Hir, who used the name Marwan, and Ali, known as Muawiyah, were slain along with Abu Sayyaf commander Umbra Jumdail and 12 others when their camp was bombarded by two Philippine Air Force OV-10 bombers Saturday 227 kg bombs.

Two Philippine security officials, with knowledge of the operation, however, told The Associated Press that new satellite-guided drones Jumdail along with Bin Hir and the other terror suspects were killed but Marwan and Muawiyah were not in the convoy.

The United States had offered a $5 million reward for the capture of Marwan, a US-educated engineer accused of involvement in deadly bombings in the Philippines, organizing terror training and plotting attacks.

Philippine security officials say Jumdail and his group were planning new terror attacks, including kidnappings of foreigners and bombings, when they were shot.

Military spokesperson Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said Jumdail's death was a major blow to his 60-[illegible]-linked group because he had harbored several Southeast Asian terrorist figures who provided bomb-and bomb-making training.

Charisma, big loss

"He had charisma and was the real link to foreign terrorists," Burgos said of Jumdail. "He was a big loss."

A few villagers, who were secretly working for the military, went up to Jumdail's hideout pretending to seek medical treatment in order to leave some kind of sensor which would later send by the location planes to zero in on the terrorist list, one of the officials said.

Jumdail, also known as Dr. Abu Pula, had a knowledge of medicine and had drawn the support of his men and provided them with training on bomb-making, the official said.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. AP

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Now, Cancer Control is Within Reach.

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For the longest time, people, especially those afflicted with cancer, have hoped that one day, there would be a remedy for it that would have minimal [illegible] and with less side effects to the patient, and most importantly would yield good results. The long wait is over with the advent of photodynamic therapy, a new method of treatment for cancer.

Professor Lu Shanming of Guangzhou Medical Cancer Hospital explains that photodynamic therapy utilizes laser technology to treat cancer. A specific wavelength of laser light is directed to the tumor for the latter to absorb the light and activate the photosensitizer. Thereafter, a chemical oxidation follows causing a cytotoxic effect. The process destroys the tumor cell and even causes its death.

The kind of therapy was used in the case of a 60 year-old Malaysian who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Considering the size of the tumor, which at that time was already 7.5cm in diameter, surgery was ruled out because such a procedure/ treatment could be applied. She took doctor's advice to go to Guangzhou Medical Cancer Hospital. The patient underwent a half hour photodynamic chemotherapy treatment. As noted by doctors, the tumor's diameter was already decreased to 2.5cm. Improvement was perceived. The patient exceeded the two months life expectancy that the local doctor predicted.

Indeed, photodynamic therapy is a reliable treatment for cancer. It reduces the pain of the patient and prolongs life. It is much more effective for the treatment of liver and pancreatic cancer. Those types of cancer are usually discovered at their late stage and cancer radiation or chemotherapy are not sensitive enough to treat this stage cancer, photodynamic therapy comes to handy.

If there is one more surprising about this photodynamic therapy is that such session takes only a few minutes. This treatment is not only for direct treatment but also an effective complaint. It cleans up the residual tumor that used to be inflammatory. Before the surgery, photosensitizer is injected and thorough a laser, the residual tumors are eliminated.

Finally, Professor Lu emphasizes that treatment as photodynamic therapy is painless, aside from the physical improvement, the emotional well being of the patient is also noticeable. And with the benefit, it can be safely said that photodynamic therapy is a cut above the rest.

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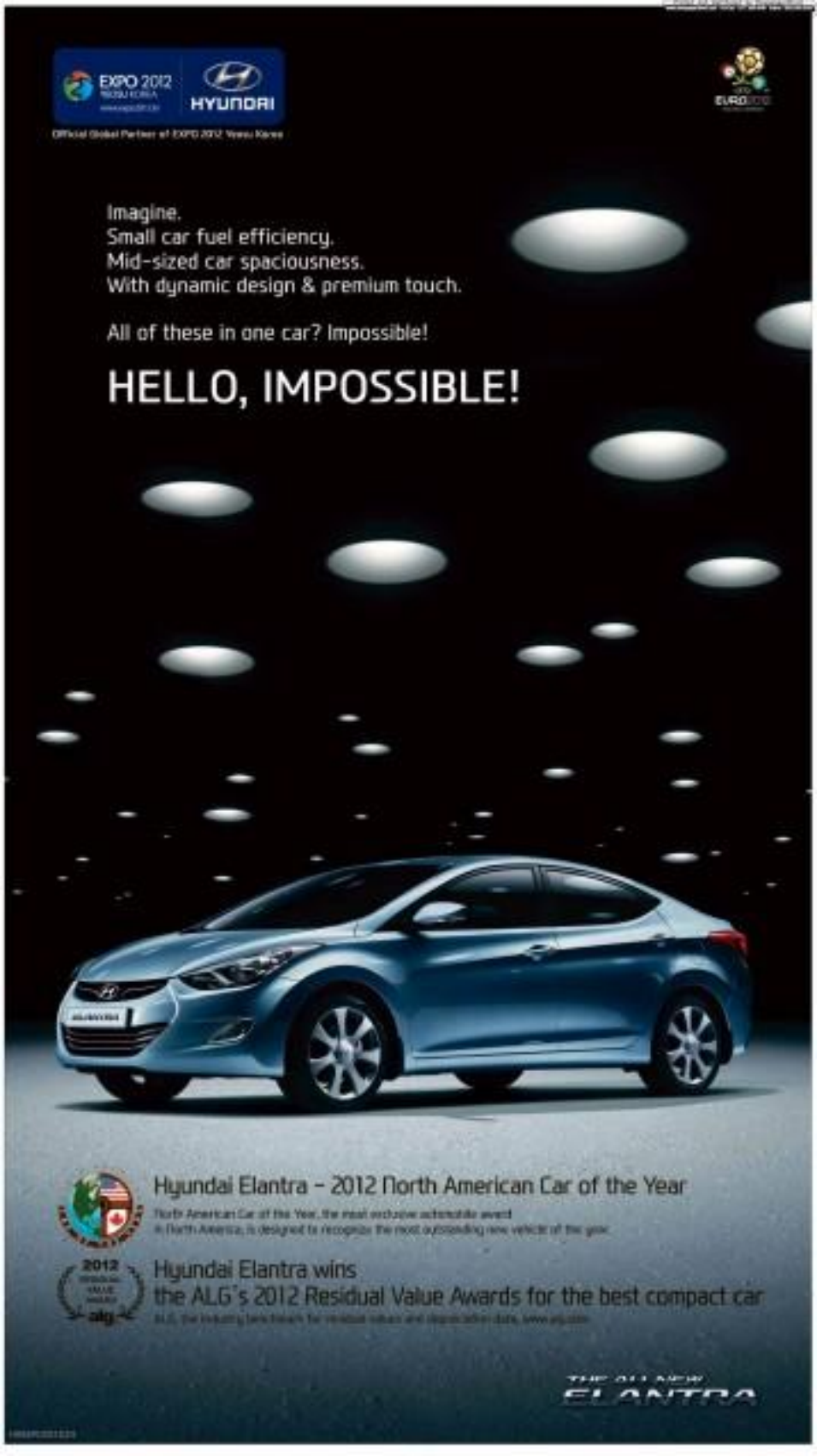

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Correction

IN THE ISSUE 1 FEB, a Talk of the Town story on Page A14—"TE death (Jr. or jnr)"—reported the address of Glaze and Maria Rizal, who were among the casualties of the minibus flood that hit Iligan City on Dec. 17 last year. The bodies of the couple were found embracing each other in their home in Balagnaan, Purok 2—not Purok 3—in Barangay Hinaplanon.

* * *

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Palace on Inq poll: Too early to tell

By Christine O. Avendaño

COMMENTING on an Inquirer online poll which showed that a majority of readers thought Chief Justice Renato Corona would not be convicted by the Senate, Malacañang said it was still too early to tell how his impeachment trial would turn out.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said yesterday the prosecution had not even wrapped up the first of eight articles of impeachment against Corona.

"We still don't hear and watch a lot of this impeachment trial," Valte said on government radio dzRB.

An informal, nonscientific poll by Inquirer.net showed (as of yesterday) 64.5 percent of 33,394 readers answering "No" to the question "Do you think the Senate will convict Chief Justice Renato Corona?" Only 35.1 percent answered "Yes." (http://www.inquirer.net/opinion/opinionpoll.htm)

Told about Inquirer.net's poll, Valte said the Palace would defer any comment.

"We still don't know what will happen in the next chapter," she said. For now, she added, the prosecution had a pending subpoena for the opening of bank accounts owned by Corona and his wife.

Valte said the prosecution wanted to know the cash position of the Coronas as it could be "hampered" on what was declared in the statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) of Corona.

Asked whether the Palace was still confident Corona would be convicted, Valte did not answer the question directly, saying only that the important thing was that the evidence was presented.

"At this point, it's somewhat premature (to say Corona will be acquitted) because so far we are seeing that slowly the case is coming out...we still have a long way to go," Valte said.

Valte also declined to respond to former Sen. Francisco Tatad's statement that President Aquino would end up being a "hero duck president" (should Corona be acquitted by the Senate).

"At this point, there are just speculations. We are only on Article 2, and there are seven articles still remaining," she said.

The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, has so far held 11 hearing days on the case against Corona, with the prosecution set to wind up this week the first of the eight articles of impeachment filed by the House of Representatives against the Chief Justice.

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GMA can stay at VMMC–Comelec

By Jeremy Aning and Cathy Rabasan

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said it was all right if former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo remained in detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City rather than in a regular jail.

"It's OK with us. Our motion was to determine if she was already well based on her doctors' assessment. If not, it's OK, we're not forcing her," Comelec chair Sixto Brillantes told reporters.

The Comelec changed its mind after earlier asking the Pasay City court hearing the electoral sabotage case against Arroyo to find out from her doctors if she was fit to be moved to a regular detention facility. Electoral sabotage is a non-bailable offense.

On Friday, Dr. Antonio Sison, a government orthopedic surgeon caring for Arroyo, supposedly a prehernior for letting her stay at the VMMC so her condition could be monitored while she undergoes daily physical therapy.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police had also said that Arroyo would be better off at the hospital for security reasons.

Brillantes said Arroyo would not be required to appear in court for her own hearing as she need not undergo the strain of the long trip from Quezon City to Pasay City.

"They (defense) can file a motion of appearance before the court. It's allowed that she'll not appear anymore," he said.

Arroyo will be arraigned on Feb. 20 on the electoral sabotage charge for allegedly ordering subordinates to cheat in the 2007 senatorial polls in Maguindanao.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, meanwhile, said House Minority Leader Danilo Suarez should not applaud people by saying that Trillanes was allowed to have laptops and cell phones when he was in detention in Fort Bonifacio and Camp Crame.

Trillanes took Suarez to task for using his case as a precedent to try and convince Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to allow Arroyo, now a representative from Pampanga, to have laptop and cell phones while in detention.

Trillanes said that when he was held at the Marine Brigade in Fort Bonifacio and later at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame from July 2007 to December 2010, he was barred from having any gadgets.

Trillanes was already a senator then, having won in the May 2007 national elections.

"While I do not begrudge Representative Suarez his association of Mrs. Arroyo's right to serve as an elected representative of Pampanga, he should at least get his facts straight," Trillanes said.

"Mrs. Arroyo's government did its best to make it difficult, if not impossible, for me to work while in detention. It's not true then at all, and it is not true now," he added.

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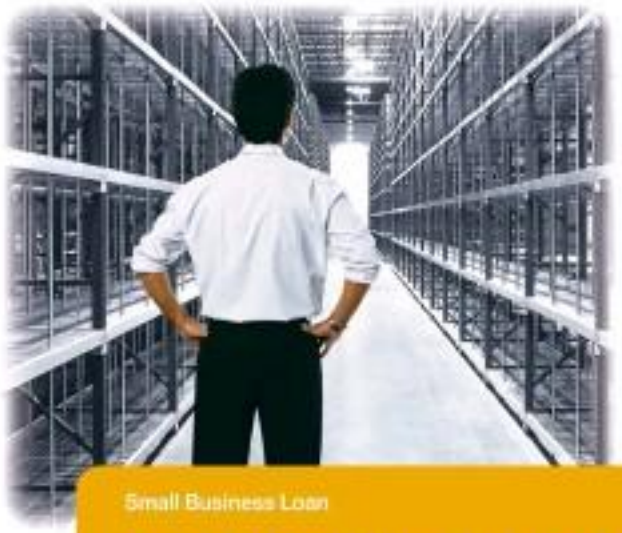

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Bianca to bring Iggy home

From page A1

taking hold of the body.

Bianca was not in Iggy's bedside when he was taken off life support on Jan. 26. Iggy had sought treatment for cirrhosis of the liver in London.

"We don't know if they (Mike and Bianca) know that there is a court order unless they are working together with Bianca. They should not say it straight out. I don't think Grace Bianca is intelligent enough to make these statements," Rapisura told the inquirer.

Rapisura accompanied Abdi to London last week with the goal of bringing home Iggy's body to the Philippines on Saturday.

He was earlier home empty-handed after widows of Bianca's several films appeared, preventing their from removing the body, which was frozen in a box at a London funeral parlor.

Rapisura said Abdi had not been able to see Iggy's remains.

The lawyer claimed that Abdi and Bianca had a meeting in front of Philippine consular officials the night before they went to the funeral parlor.

Among the things they found out was that a funeral parlor in the country would receive Iggy's body from the United Kingdom. "We have to name a Philippine consignee which the London funeral parlor can coordinate with. Abdi wanted Loyola to Marikina City, but Bianca wanted Arlington, so we agreed with her (Bianca)," Rapisura said.

Wake in La Vista

The lawyer said Bianca was unaware that Iggy's wake be held at his family's house in La Vista subdivision in Quezon City where he and his siblings Mike and Marilou Jodee was married to Hamza Jacinto) grew up.

Rapisura said Abdi, who wanted the wake held at their home in the same compound, had given way to Bianca.

"We don't know if Bianca was speaking for the Arroyo family. But when they met, Bianca told that since Abdi was here, she should take charge of the funeral arrangements. That's why we were surprised that Grace had obtained papers stating she was Iggy's next of kin and that we were told she wanted Iggy cremated," Rapisura said.

Under Philippine laws, the legal wife was No. 1 in line, among the deceased's next of kin, with the children coming in second, the parents third, and the siblings last, Rapisura said.

Rapisura said she found it absurd that Bianca would seek assist from a British consulate all the principals involved were Filipino citizens.

"She not only wanted the body cremated, she also sent the Philippine embassy," said Rapisura who suggested that Bianca's passport be canceled if she did not release Iggy's body.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the family of Iggy had asked the government not to make public "details about the repatriation" of the remains of the late congressman.

Citing a report of the Philippine Embassy in London, DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez yesterday told the Inquirer that "in keeping with the request of (Arroyo's) family, it is not in a position to disclose to the public details about the repatriation of his remains."

On Friday, Hernandez said there was "no advisory yet from the embassy (regarding the repatriation of Arroyo's body)."

He expressed hope that "it will be soon" so he assured the public that the DFA was in touch with Arroyo's family and was helping facilitate the return of the late congressman's remains.

GMA request

Following Iggy's death, lawyers of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is under hospital arrest on a charge of electoral sabotage, have asked a Pasay City regional trial court for her provisional freedom so she can pay her last respects to her brother-in-law.

The Comelec, over the weekend, said the former President must clarify her request, particularly the place of the wake, so that the government could prepare the logistical and security requirements needed should she be allowed to go out of the hospital.

Some Catholic bishops supported her request for "humanitarian reasons."

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said Gloria Arroyo must be given a temporary pass to attend the wake of Iggy, a privilege given even to inmates.

"If your brother-in-law dies, will you not visit him?" Arguelles asked.

"I know that many accused inmates are allowed to visit deceased close relatives ... of course, they are not high-profile prisoners. In Davao I already a sentenced prisoner?" the prelate said.

Bishop Jose Oliveros did not see anything wrong with allowing the former President to attend the wake of her brother-in-law.

Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos said Gloria Arroyo must be allowed to attend "out of charity or compassion."

The former President is detained at Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

As to the apparent tug of war between Abdi and Bianca, Archbishop Ramon Cruz suggested that Iggy's estranged wife and companion talk things over to resolve the issue. **With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada**

Archbishop Tagle: Sex abuse a global reality

VATICAN CITY—Newly appointed Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle, a rising star in the Catholic Church hierarchy is expected to address a major international conference on Thursday about the particular challenges of dealing with the issue of child abuse in Asia.

A preconference press statement said Tagle's speech would show "that sexual abuse inside and outside the Church is a global reality, not focused simply to the United States and Europe."

"Careful consideration needs to be given to the cultural values that can foster greater transparency and cooperation as a universal Church that journeys the most vulnerable," the statement said.

The Vatican's top prosecutor has warned that the Catholic Church in Asia is falling behind in the fight against pedophilia due to cultural differences over what constitutes child abuse.

"The problem is very unevaluated in Asia," Archbishop Charles Scicluna told reporters ahead of the conference this week in the Vatican's Gregorian University on the crisis of pedophilia in the Church.

"There is an awareness that there is abuse and something needs to be done," added Scicluna, who addressed an unprecedented church abuse meeting on the issue with Asian Church leaders in Bangkok in November last year.

The Vatican has asked national bishops' conferences from around the world to submit by May their guidelines on how to deal with abusive priests and cooperate with local law enforcement in an effort to root out abuse.

"There are some who will miss the deadline but they'll get there in the end," said Scicluna, who as "promoter of justice" for the Vatican is charged with looking into the thousands of cases of abuse by clergy.

"In some cultures, it's hard for victims to come forward. We are debating how to change a culture that favors silence over denunciation," he said.

Thousands of clergy abuse scandals in Europe and the United States have rocked the Catholic Church in recent years, revealing a culture of cover-up dating back decades that Church leaders say they now want to eradicate.

But fewer cases of child abuse have come to light in other parts of the world such as Asia, Africa and Latin America, where public scandals involving financial corruption or sexual affairs by priests with women have been more contained.

One exception has been the Philippines, where the Church has apologized for abuse committed by priests over a period of 50 years and clergymen have been defrocked, although few if any have been brought to justice.

The meeting of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) in November last year, titled "The Impact of Pedophilic Crisis in the Church in Asia," warned that abuse "has already become a considerably serious problem in Asia."

"Let us not be complacent that pedophilia is a problem of the West or the other continents of the world. It is equally prevalent in many countries in Asia," the organizers said, calling for "drastic and immediate measures."

The FABC said the problem was particularly urgent because many men and women of the clergy "are not aware of what in reality is pedophilia."

Fr Hans Zollner, one of the organizers of the Vatican conference, said an important challenge for the Church was how to apply on a global level its experience in dealing with child abuse cases in Western countries. AFP

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Lapid wife was held in US jail for 3 days, says lawyer

By Nicola U. Bacta
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—The preliminary hearing on the cash-smuggling case against Mariana Lapid, which was scheduled for Feb. 7, has been postponed, according to Lapid's lawyer, Elliot Kroger.

"There is no truth to get it to indictment," Kroger told the Inquirer in an interview.

The developer-ex-Kroger disclosed for the first time that Lapid was held at an immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Las Vegas for three days after she was arrested on Jan. 15 for allegedly smuggling $30,000 into the US on Nov. 27, 2010.

"She did not have to be detained for three days," said Kroger, who got Lapid released from detention. "She was not a flight risk."

The US government placed a hold on Lapid's Las Vegas property to cover her $500,000 bail. She also wears an ankle bracelet equipped with a GPS to monitor her location, and her travels are restricted to Clark County.

Court papers obtained by the Inquirer showed that ICE special agents Albert Giampapero, of the agency's Money Laundering Asset Forfeiture Group (MLAF), sanctioned an affidavit that Lapid "knowingly concealed $40,000" when she arrived at Mc-Carran International Airport in Las Vegas on Nov. 27, 2010.

Lapid, a permanent resident or green card holder, declared in the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) form that she was carrying "$30,000 and PHP1,000 [equivalent to $23], citing it as the total in the affidavit. After searching her luggage, ICE agents found $40,000 in two socks and a shirt's bag hidden in the lining, he added.

US federal law requires arriving passengers to declare any currency or monetary instruments totaling $10,000 or more. Violators are fined a maximum of $500,000 and/or incarcerated for the US government. Bulk cash smuggling is also punishable by a maximum 10-year imprisonment, according to a memo from Homeland Security.

When asked about the conflicting statements made by Mariana and her husband Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, on an interview he intended his, Kroger said: "What the money is for or the source of the money is are material to the specific charge that she is being charged with and the allegations that are being made."

Court documents showed that when Mariana was questioned by customs officials at the airport about the money, she said: "I'm sorry. It's for my house."

But according to Senator Lapid, his wife intended to use the money for medical expenses, explaining that she had gone to the US to seek treatment for a bone ailment.

Kroger said what was more relevant to the case was "that Mrs. Lapid has complied with the invitation of Homeland Security to deal with the issue."

"She returned to the US on Jan. 15 for the purpose of meeting with Homeland Security," he said.

A former assistant US attorney, Kroger also said that "it's possible" the case will be dismissed, citing some of his previous cases "things happened and the case was dismissed," said Kroger, a Harvard Law School graduate who works with the Southern California-based firm Jarvis, Kroger and Sullivan.

The tentative trial is now preliminary hearing date will be set within 60 days.

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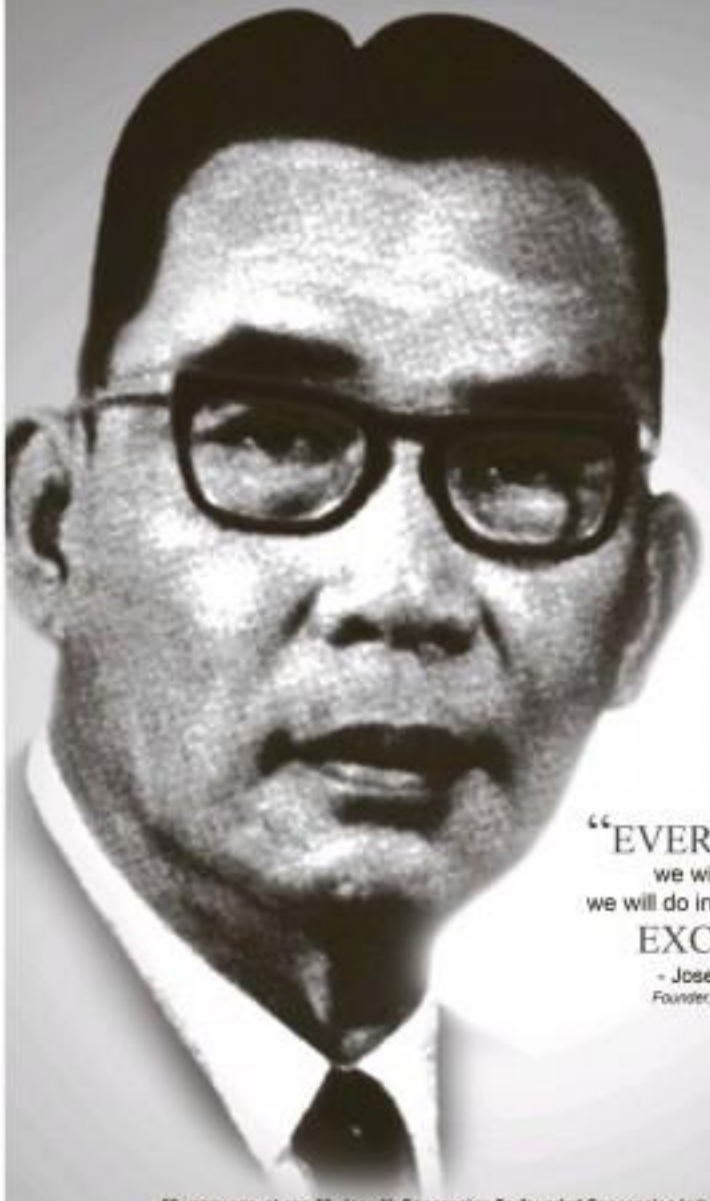

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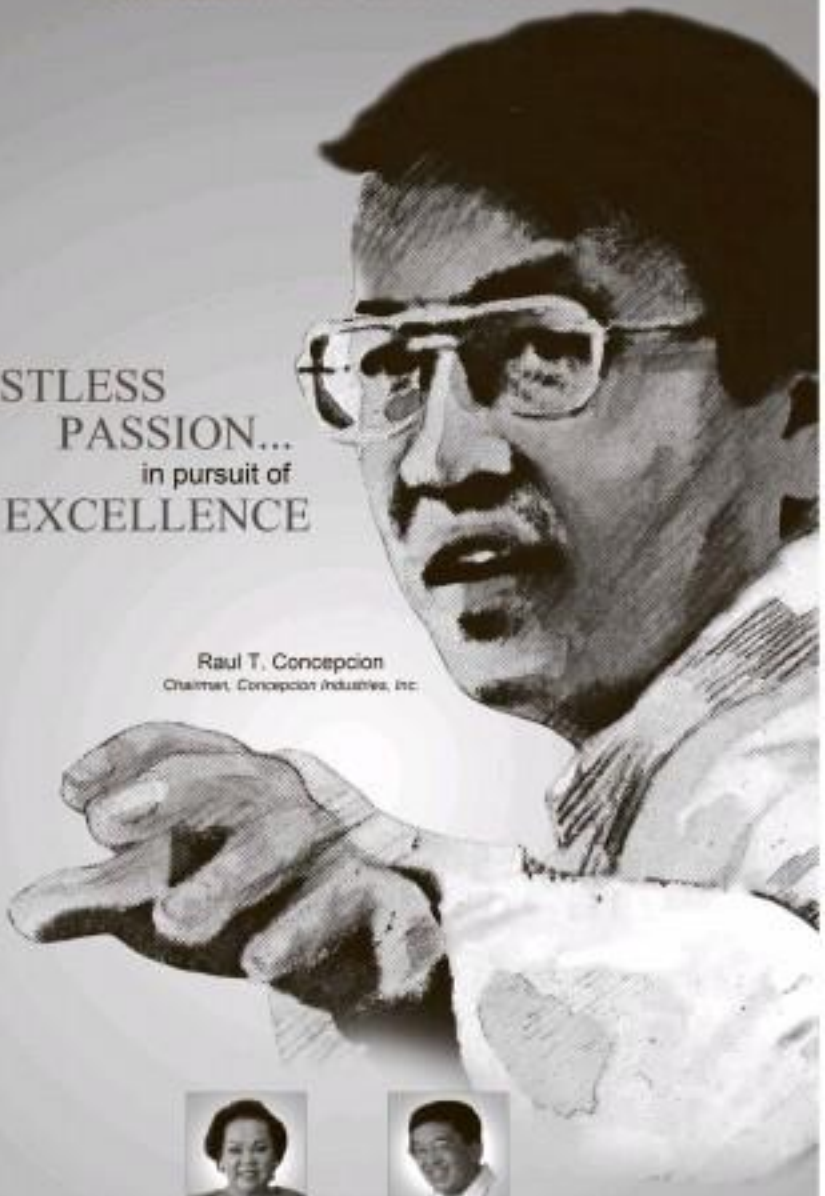

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Impeachable offense

EDITORIAL

AS IF the bumbling of the prosecutors and the flunkies of Chief Justice Renato Corona's defense counselors with legal technicalities were not exasperating enough, here come senator-judges groping for what would suffice for an impeachable offense. Sen. Joker Arroyo led the charge, during the prosecutors during the impeachment trial last Thursday: "Give us evidence that has reached the level of an impeachable offense. As I keep repeating, it's not just any offense. It must be a high-

er hit because we are removing a chief justice."

Sen. Chiz Escudero added: "Assuming that the Chief Justice was caught jaywalking on video, that is a violation of law. But is that the nature of impeachment? Or if he gives P500 to someone in the [Land Transportation Office], is this the nature of an impeachment? Kindly educate us on the gravity of the level of the crimes that would be considered impeachable."

Now, is Chief Justice Corona's alleged dishonesty in filing his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) sufficient to convict him of betrayal of public trust?

Of course, dishonesty is a strong word. There appears wide disagreement between House prosecutors and defense counsels, and between the senators themselves, on whether Corona's failure to correctly report some pesos of property and the acquisition costs of those reported amounted to betrayal of public trust.

Quezon City Rep Erin Tañada, deputy spokesperson of the prosecution, said the Supreme Court did not consider dishonesty a petty crime when it upheld the dismissal from office of a Bureau of Internal Revenue official in a 2000 decision over having accumulated pieces of property and investments grossly disproportionate to her income and not disclosing these in her SALNs.

But what if the failure to fully disclose the worth of a property was an oversight? Sen. Ralph Recto cited Civil Service Commission rules and regulations providing that an official who made an erroneous entry in his statement, "shall not be sanctioned" if he made a correction "in good faith."

Part of the problem here is that the prosecution really hasn't gotten its act together. For example, it took nearly two hours last Thursday for private prosecutor Clarence Jandoc to disclose what really the point was about the testimony of an official of the Burgundy Plaza Realty Corp. regarding the purchase in 1997 of a unit by Corona and his wife Cristina. After some prodding from Sen. Angara Estrada, it turned out that Corona had not declared in his SALN that he had purchased as well a parking slot that came with the unit for P458,000.

Later on, House prosecutor Rep. Elpidio Barzaga noted that Corona's SALNs from 2002 to 2010 "left some blanks insofar as the acquisition cost is concerned." He argued that Corona's failure to "accurately" declare the acquisition cost of some pieces of property amounted to "the highest form of betrayal of public trust."

The defense, for its part, is saying that the Bellagio property, originally priced at P24 million, was acquired by Corona for P14.5 million because of a discount given to him by the developer. Giving discounts, Sen. Manuel Villar, himself a real estate tycoon, said was industry practice.

On Day 11, it seemed that some senator-judges were still unclear as to what constitutes an impeachable offense, others were struggling to raise the "bar" for "removing a chief justice." In the process, it looked like it was laying the ground for the lowering of the standards of integrity required of high public office.

It is would help any, may we refer senator-judges, if indeed it is not clear to them what an impeachable offense is, to last Sunday's column of former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, specifically, to the final line: "At the people's altar ego, senators have wide discretion in deciding whether the respondent is still in and qualified to continue occupying the highest judicial office in the land."

It may serve them as well to remember that even minor public officials have been sanctioned and even dismissed because of minor infractions including dishonesty. Certainly for a high-ranking government official—the branch, no less, of the third branch of government—to have fallen short of truthfully and candidly declaring his SALNs should not be considered a piddling matter.

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Too much hairsplitting in impeachment trial

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THREE (3) two-month hairsplitting in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona. The defense said that the number of Corona's real estate properties is not (I) as the prosecution allegedly claimed, but only 24 or 23, and that much much more than enough?

How can he afford those many condo units and lots in first-class addresses in Metro Manila on his legitimate salary as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court? How many Filipino families can afford that many real estate properties in the metropolis? Even if he has only one but current legitimately affords it, and that unpretentiously did not disclose it as unnecessary in his prosecution of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), which were made under oath, he is still convicted. That's dishonesty. What were if there were 23 or 24 properties hidden from his SALNs year after year? That's overkiness, which the law punishes severely.

They argue that even if the defense's discussion of P46 million on just one purchase a mere error? Regarding to declare them year after year a mere error?

"Is that an impeachable offense?" asks the defense and, surprisingly, also some of the new senator-judges. Ordinary clerks are allowed to "correct" their SALNs, they say, why not the Chief Justice?

That's precisely the point. Renato Corona is not just an ordinary clerk. He is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, the court of last resort, the court that can declare existing laws enacted by Congress valid or not, the court that can deprive a citizen of his life, liberty or property. What, it, or even just three of its 15 members, can become the law of the land. Therefore, must be expected of him than an ordinary clerk. Alas, "interesting sin ignorantia" ruling. "He was weighed (on the scales of time) and was found wanting."

Concerning an error in his SALNs (repeatedly, I emphasize) is not such a grievous offense, the defense and senator-judges say as to warrant impeachment, its "error" committed 23 or 24 times is errors error! One error is one error too many. Does it matter that you killed 23 persons or 123? You are still a killer even if you killed only one.

It is surprising that at this late date, when the Senate is already trying Corona, there are still lawyers who insist that the impeachment complaint filed by the House of Representatives is "defective" and should be scrapped. They are still urging the Supreme Court to declare the trial a partisan that the high tribunal has wisely kept away from. If the Supreme Court issues a TRO, how is it going to enforce it? Cite the senators for contempt? How is it going to enforce the contempt order?

The impeachment complaint was defective because there was not enough votes for the 188 congressmen to verify and sign the impeachment complaint in three hours; three lawyers say. Why, how long does it take a congressman to sign a sheet of paper? One minute, two minutes? And isn't it enough that when the two-pronged signed the complaint, they knew what it contained and agreed with it? In law, there is the presumption of regularity in all official acts. The filing by the House of Representatives of the impeachment complaint is an official act of its members and the presumption of regularity is presumed that the process.

How much proof is needed to convict? They keep asking. Proof beyond reasonable doubt as in a criminal trial, says the defense. Preponderance of evidence as in an administrative trial, says the prosecution. Substantial evidence as in a civil case, say the senators.

They all forget that the issue here, she has vote here, is the impeachment of Corona to be the highest magistrate of the land. The people must have complete trust and faith in him to be effective, if the citizens do not trust him, and eventually the Judiciary and the administration of justice, they will not obey orders of the court's. The result would be anarchy.

There are also continuing other causes of hairsplitting by both the defense and the senator-judges in the conduct of the trial which is slowing down its progress. Seventh on that the senators are growing tired of the whole thing as it is depriving them of the time to do what the people elected them to do: enact laws. And the people watching the proceedings on their television sets are not only becoming bored, they are also becoming exasperated, frustrated and...angry.

The prosecution is effectively prevented from presenting its evidence and witnesses by so many objections from the defense and the trial is delayed by so many legal technicalities and hairsplitting, as I said before, if the defense is delaying the trial by its many objections, it is timed for them to vote on the guilt or innocence of Corona, to consider only the admissible evidence and disregard those that are not? That way the trial would proceed faster. Except for two or three, the senators are all intelligent people and would know how to decide.

But in the final analysis, what they would have to consider is not the plethora of evidence, arguments and legal technicalities, but the fitness of Corona's character. They will have to answer this question: Is Corona still fit to remain the final justice? Do the people still have faith and trust in him?

High crimes

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I couldn't understand that whole discussion last week about whether Renato Corona's failure to correctly disclose his exact net worth in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SALN) constituted a high crime or not.

That arose after Amalia Cuevas read the stipulation from the Civil Service Commission that public officials were supposed to disclose all the assets and properties, their value, personal value, acquisition value, and not just one or two of them—and Ujimbo Santiago of the prosecution pointed out that Renato Corona had consistently failed to account for the acquisition value of his properties, notably his unit in Bellagio. Jinkee Pumaren finally asked Barzaga if that was a high crime or not, since the Constitution said a president and the heads of independent bodies were impeachable only for high crimes. Barzaga said no.

So what things are we arguing with that question, or its implication that a chief justice may be removed only if he has committed such things as betrayal of public trust and treason.

First, but of course it is a high crime. Another is it was committed by one of the highest officials of the land. I still continue to maintain that the depth of trauma needed to remove a public official should be in inverse proportion to the height of the position he occupies. The higher the office, the lower the reason. Or put in terms of crime, the gravity of a crime does not like in direct proportion to the weight of the office a public official occupies. The higher the office, the graver the crime.

A clerk who is caught falsifying his tax forms may be fired. A chief justice caught doing the same thing may be removed from office. A clerk who doctors the letters on the BIR, a chief justice who does the letters the public trust.

Second, the comparison with Bill Clinton is unfortunate. Clinton, if the charges against him had been proven to be true, would have been guilty only of getting a hj. Corona, if the charges against him were to be proven to be true, would be guilty of committing a screw job. Clinton would have been guilty only of violating spousal trust. Corona would be guilty of violating the public trust. I grant burrowing spousal trust brings with it far harsher punishments than betrayal of public trust—the tender mercies of spouses have been known to be less tender than those of the public. But that's another story.

Third, I don't think Clinton might have denied the charge to death, and no one would have been the wiser, except he and Monica Lewinsky. Corona may deny the charge to death, but everyone will be the wiser, no small thanks to the difference between what he avowed to be the fair value of his Bellagio unit and the amount he paid Megaworld for it. P6 million and P14 million are not a gap, they are a chasm. Additionally, one is tempted to say that only in the United States will you find such a preponderance of executives so trying to impeach a president for having sex with an intern. And we have had literary hairdrops as well about the "Brown brassiere" and Rainbow Hadji, as point here. But for many passersby, there's something immoral about one branch of government out to humiliate another branch of government.

Two more comparisons with the United States, look at Richard Nixon, not Clinton. Nixon's crime was merely turning a blind eye on the break-in to the Democratic headquarters, if not indeed ordering it. He didn't break in himself. He would not be called high crime, that would be called low-tech. The people who perpetrated it would not be called thugs, they would be called amateurs. Nixon is in the United States. A president does that, he's guilty of obstructing public justice. He's guilty of a high crime, he deserves to be impeached.

And look what Nixon did. He resigned. Out of shame or honor, you decide.

Third, even if you grant that Corona's fudging of the SALN is not a high crime, which takes a lot of granting, it is not the individual crimes that constitute the high crime but the accumulation of those crimes. The Nixon tapes, a couple of dozen of Russian bosses at Spartan public servant wages, not requiring all of them and understanding reported sins, obtaining cash advances from a company when he was in opposition but forgiven when he got in power, public or private, who holds a position of trust loses continuing to hold on to that position. Least of all someone the world looks up to as supreme justice.

By the same token, the individual crimes are "only" misdemeanors, but the accumulation of high crimes by the nature of Corona's position. Taken collectively, well, will you trust a thief justice that acted that way?

Fourth, the discussion about whether or not an impeachable official ought to be impeached only for a high crime drives home the point again about culture. In Western countries like the United States and Europe, and in Asian countries like Japan and Korea, you don't need to resort to impeaching impeachable officials or even losing ordinary officials for crimes, high or low, because the culture does the trick. Or more precisely public opinion, operating through culture, does the trick.

A chief justice who has tried to hide his wealth in the way Corona has would have ruined in her career long ago. A chief justice who has shown a partiality for a widely held corrupt and illegitimate president would have ceased to be chief justice long ago. A chief justice who was appointed by someone who had ceased to have the power to appoint would never have been chief justice to begin with. The culture would have ensured someone like that into oath an object of derision he would have slunk away in shame.

What are we suggesting by debating whether the crimes committed by a chief justice are high or not? It's OK for him to conspire in effect to long as he is a petty criminal and not a big crime one?

That debate is a high crime in itself.

Impeachable offenses

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

HOUSE I was quoted by a prosecutor on my alleged view as to the meaning of "betrayal of public trust." I thought that I might as well put down my view as I expressed it in the 2005 edition of my often-cited commentary. Until in part:

"The way the Bill (1987) provision is worded is significant. It enumerated the grounds for impeachment of the culpable violation of the constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes or betrayal of public trust. The word 'other' is significant. Under the ejusdem generis rule, where the last makes an enumeration of specific matters and follows it with 'other' unspecified objects, those unspecified objects must be of the same nature as those specified. Thus for 'graft and corruption' and 'betrayal of public trust' to be grounds for impeachment, their concrete manner of commission must be of the same severity as 'treason,' 'bribery,' 'other high crimes' that differ at the very heart of the life of the nation."

Grounds for impeachment are found in the 15 constitutions, in our 1935, 1973 and 1987 constitutions. But there are differences in the enumerated grounds.

The enumerated grounds for impeachment common to all of the above constitutions are treason, bribery, high crimes. Only the 1973 and 1987 constitutions mention graft and corruption. Betrayal of public trust is found only in the 1987 Constitution.

Our 1935 constitution basically copied the grounds enumerated in the US constitution but omitted "misdemeanors." Likewise the 1973 and 1987 constitutions have not included "misdemeanors." The reason for dropping this ground in 1935, according to Delegate Manuel Roxas, was to avoid the risk of slandering high officials with minor offenses.

As to "culpable violation of the Constitution," a ground not explicitly mentioned in the US constitution, this is to be taken to mean willful violation of the oath of office. However, the committee responsible for the article on Accountability of Public Officials accepted the narrower view that betrayal of public trust "implied deliberate intent, perhaps even a certain degree of perversity, for it is not easy to imagine that individuals of the category of those impeachable officials would do an act in it-self knowingly what the Constitution commands." But, again, what it all comes down to is that since "betrayal of public trust" is enumerated as among an exclusive class of offenses, it must also be seen as having the same gravity as the other offenses in the class. In other words, not every violation of public trust is an impeachable offense.

One conclusion I would draw from all these, moreover, is that "high crimes" already covers "culpable violation of the Constitution" and "betrayal of public trust." As Lawrence Tribe notes, high crimes "will necessarily involve what is thought to be a serious abuse of official power as a stark incompatibility between the offense and the offender's ability faithfully to exercise the duties of his or her office in a manner that will not endanger the office or the nation."

The enumerated impeachable offenses may all be found either in the Penal Code or in special laws. Yet treason and bribery committed by impeachable officials are paradigms of offenses which endanger the nation—treason, because it is a direct assault on government and the life of the nation, and bribery because it entails abuse of power and corruption of office.

One question that must also be asked is whether there is a difference between the meaning of "Guilty" as found in a judicial decision and "Guilty" as found in an impeachment conviction when they are dealing with offenses of equal gravity.

There is a difference in the result. When a court convicts for treason or bribery, it makes a judgment that the person must make amends for the high law of life-and liberty. When an impeachment court imposes removal from office, it makes a judgment that there are compelling reasons for shielding the nation from further harm but leaving restitution to the judgment of a court. For that reason, prosecution after conviction on impeachment does not constitute double jeopardy. However, the needed quantum of proof for either criminal conviction or impeachment conviction are not far from each other. If there is a difference at all.

Pit of madness

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

IT IS one ugly landmark that many residents in my home province of South Cotabato would rather not have in the future. I am referring to a pit—projected to be "approximately 500 hectares in area and approximately 900 meters deep"—that will be left gaping when a proposed copper-gold mining project ends its mining life in an area straddling the provinces of South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur.

The ugly gaping hole, noted Bishop Reinulfo dela Cruz of the Kidapawan Diocese, will "leave a depth deeper than the height of the Land Bank Building, and can potentially be added to the inhumane list of top 10 open pits visible from outer space."

In the recently held international conference on mining in Mindanao jointly organized by the Ateneo de Davao University and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the proposed Tampakan Copper-Gold Mine Project is to be operated by the foreign-controlled Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) became one of the hotly discussed issues.

Other horrifying scenarios were also raised during the conference. For example, the proponent Tampakan project is within 10 kilometers of Mount Matutum, an active volcano. "You can see mine within 10 kilometers of an active volcano," pointed out Clive Montgomery Wilde, a conservation and development consultant specializing in the impact of extractive industries.

"It's ridiculous, irresponsible. It's the height of madness to even think of doing it," he said, stressing "the grave danger posed to peoples' lives and property by the 2.7 billion tons of toxic rock with a high potential for acid drainage that will be generated on each year of operation."

Wilde is not exaggerating. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report that SMI submitted to the MGB cited that its project "has been given an 'Extreme' consequence classification, during operation and closure, due to the high potential for loss of life and high environmental damage if failure occurs."

Indeed, for years now, mining advocates have been trumpeting the potential economic benefits of the country's 7.1 billion metric tons of metallic mineral reserves, like gold, copper and nickel.

Claimed over-though is how the present mining regime has ever availed the growth of our local economy and left communities affected by mining operations still among the poorest in the country. In fact, in 2003, the mining industry contributed a pittance of the country's economy: it added only 1 percent (or only P68 billion gross value) to the GDP, 4 percent of exports ($2,033 million) and one-half percent of employment (or only 197,000 jobs).

Also, there is the issue of the direct link between mining and human rights violation in the country today. This nexus was noted by United Nations Special Rapporteur Rodolfo Stavenhagen, who cited in his 2002 UN Report cases of resistance and opposition in the midst of mining projects—protests that are often countered by military force, resulting in killings, destruction of property, forced evacuation, etc., particularly affecting indigenous peoples.

Mining today, particularly in Mindanao, is "about short-term benefits for some in the end, however, of serious long-term environmental degradation for all," as the bishops noted in their framework that provides foreign investors with a legal portal to rape our environment with impunity," noted Jesuit Fr. Joel Tabora, president of the Ateneo de Davao.

It will do well for the Aquino administration to seriously consider the following recommendations from made in the "Mindanao Declaration" which was issued by the conference participants: the repeal of Republic Act 7942 or the Mining Act of 1995; the revocation of Executive Order 270-A issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the centralization of the mining industry; and on "mineralized zones including mineworkers and communities and civil society, if applicable, of all existing operations" while the relevant mining policies are being reviewed.

It also recommended the enactment of the constitutional alternative mining bills pending in Congress, among those bills is the consolidated People's Mining Bill (House Bill 4113) that, among other provisions, would require the creation of a Multi-sectoral Mineral Council (MMC) to be formed in the provinces or towns that would be granted the sole power to approve and monitor all mining applications.

Our present Constitution, ratified more than 25 years ago on Feb. 2, 1987, mandates the State to exploit our mineral resources through direct undertaking, joint ventures or co-production arrangements. In clear terms is for this State, as owner of the mineral resources, to exercise its fair share in the profits from the exploitation of our natural resources. However, it is unfortunate—also unusual, and even criminal—that a quarter century after, we have yet to see the government and the people getting a "reasonable and fair share" from the huge profits attained by these mining companies—not even a single centavo.

Measures that have been or are being adopted by different groups—like the anti-open pit mining ordinances in South Cotabato and Tambuan, go del Norte, the proposed anti-mining ordinances in Davao Oil; and elsewhere—are signs that people have enough and are ready to exercise their constitutional mining on their lives. The people can no longer allow, without requiring later on, the unbridled rape and pillage of our remaining resources and environment in search for the insatiable lust of a few for profit.

The Aquino administration alone the madness of a few to destroy the future of the next generations of Filipinos.

Science and K+12

COMMENTARY

Dr. Giovanni Tapang

SEVERAL DAYS ago, Education Secretary Armin Luistro was reported to have announced that science would be dropped from the subjects being taught at the Grade 1 level. This decision of the Department of Education is based on the design of the K+12 curriculum and the department's efforts to decongest the basic education curriculum. Instead of 10 subjects, there will be only six subjects will focus on "oral fluency" and include learning areas on the Mother Tongue, Filipino, Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao, Math (Music, Art, Physical Education and Health), Mathematics, Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies) and English. Science will be introduced as a subject only in Grade 3.

This move to limit the contact hours for science to seventeen, especially since the proposed target of the shift in 12 years of basic education curriculum is to improve students' competencies in English, Math and Science and prepare them for college. Our reason: after school for nursing in the K + 12 program is that the current curriculum is overcrowded and that the learning areas relatively light and thus make learning more enjoyable for young learners. This move to delay the introduction to science in the curriculum seems to be too much to some.

In a related move, the DepEd will be providing additional subjects to about half of our special science high schools to improve teachers' competencies and increasing its science. Instead of introducing scientific thinking early on, the department would rather put its money in improving scientific teaching at later stages in order to compensate.

The premium for students now is on learning and speaking well in English, for example, rather than building the student's analytical skills to deal with his natural (and cultural) world. This choice is usually driven by the government's perceived need in jobs for many aspects of everyday life. This type of science teaching should be taught at all levels, if possible.

Because the K+12 retooling of the curriculum as a move geared toward satisfying the demands of the globalized market rather than as a shift meant to really improve the level-pool of educated youth that will be the future leaders of the nation. Even if the target of the government to rely more on BPO and investments rather than on domestic industrialization to improve our economy, this K+12 retooling distorts the preparation of our students to become science-competent into just science-"literate."

The recent pronouncement by Obama to pour legislators in bring outsourcing jobs back to the United States shows how vulnerable this strategy is. The Philippine government has budgeted at least P375 million in subsidies for private and foreign BPO investors consisting of training, tax holidays and teacher development, career monitoring and other incentives through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and the Commission on Higher Education. We agree with the think-tank Ibon Foundation that these funds will be more productively spent supporting Philippine industry, science and technology, rather than a sector that is such a small part of the economy and by its nature does not give much value.

Developing a domestic industry starts with a correct shift in education. Science is not just the facts and figures we have to the textbooks. It is the observational and analytical skills that we gain in those science subjects that make us act and think "scientific" in our lives.

Dr. Giovanni Tapang is a physicist and chair of the Agham Advocacy of Science and Technology for the People.

Air Force Broncos or US Predators?

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEEK, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Jessie Dellosa announced that "in an act which that lasted only a few seconds, government troops killed one of Southeast Asia's most wanted terrorist leaders as well as senior Abu Sayyaf commander and a Singaporean guerrilla." Also killed were 11 followers of the terror leaders. Asked for proof, Dellosa said "I am sure because I will not easily issue a statement here." The three leaders were Malaysian Muhyiddin bin Mohd. Salleh (no. 16), who is known as "Marwan" and a leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terror network; Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) commander Umbra Jumdail, known as "Dan Mo"; and, a Singaporean, Mohamdu Ali of the JI group. However, as of yesterday the bodies of the 15 terrorists had not been recovered.

According to news reports, the air strike was carried out by two F60 OV-10 Broncos that dropped four 227-kg bombs over a "thickly vegetated area under the cover of coconut trees in Barong, Indu peninsula." The planes struck at 3 a.m., coinciding with the terrorists sleeping period in camp.

We must congratulate our pilots for the professional and skills shown in delivering their bombs on target with pinpoint accuracy. Credit must also go to the intelligence work that provided the necessary information leading to the operation.

* * *

Almost four months after the massacre and mutilation of 44 soldiers in Al Barka, Basilan, I was hoping the priority targets of our intelligence operations would be those involved in the massacre, but unfortunately, there appears to be little progress in that direction. We can kill Abu Sayyaf and JI members in the country, but we cannot get the same degree of satisfaction and revenge that happened in Basilan. To refresh our memory, in July 2007, 14 Marines were killed in Al Barka, Basilan. In October last year, 19 Scout Rangers were also massacred in the same locality. In both cases, the men were beheaded; their bodies mutilated, showing signs of torture. As I said earlier, we owe it to our soldiers—living and dead—to find other leaders to fill the vacuum left. If we can track down Abu Sayyaf and JI personalities, why can't we do the same with MILF terrorists? By the way, whatever happened to the investigations that were supposed to be conducted by ceasefire committees established by the peace process?

Is it because there are ministerial rewards being offered by the Philippine and US governments for terrorist leaders that our attention is focused on those priority targets? If rogue gallery released jointly by the Philippine military and the US Embassy shows pictures of 269 terrorist leaders wanted for murder, extortion and kidnapping, with corresponding rewards for their capture. The central poster reads, "The Philippine Government with the US Government is offering rewards of from US$1,000 up to US$10 million to the citizens of the Philippines who provide the Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF), AFP or US Embassy with information or assistance that leads to the arrest or capture of the following terrorists..." 24 pictures are included in the poster. The bounty, the head of the MILF group that befriended our soldiers in Al Barka, is now included even as Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin announced the resumption of formal talks in November to capture him. Where is our sense of priority? Does the AFP have a dedicated anti-abuse anti-objective to defeat, capture or kill the Al Barka terrorists? The US Navy Seal team that got Osama bin Laden was not concerned about Pakistani sensitivities. Its mission was to get Bin Laden—dead or alive. At times, I get the feeling we are more concerned about the rights of terrorists than the 1,982 list of wanted terrorists, about leaving kidnapped foreigners, especially Westerners, rather than bringing to justice those who murder our soldiers. Shades of our colonial mentality.

Let me now bring up a subject that may be disturbing to many of our readers.

During the last few years, the United States has increasingly relied on drone attacks on suspected terrorist hideouts in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Drones are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that carry armaments such as Hellfire missiles. Originally considered for use in reconnaissance and forward observation roles, the drones have been adapted for the more aggressive operations. The RQ-1 Predator is the primary UAV currently being used by the US Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan. "M" stands for multi-role; "Q" refers to accompanied aircraft system. It has been used with success to kill a number of prominent al Qaeda operatives. However, its use has also resulted in the deaths of civilians. The media always gets hold between a terrorist and a noncombatant. Part of the current friction between the United States and Pakistan stems from drone attacks that have often resulted in civilian casualties. One could say that instead of winning friends for the United States, the use of drones creates even more enemies because of the collateral damage inflicted on innocent bystanders and civilians who may be bystanders to the conflict.

According to Wikipedia, two evil registered, unarmed MQ-1s have been operated by the office of the National Security Adviser in the Philippines since 2006.

Were US Predator drones used in the raids or strike? The Philippines has no drones. Unfortunately, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano was quite capable of delivering their ordnance on target as reported, shortly after the Al Barka incident. Will planes were also sent against terrorists fortifications in Zamboanga Sibugay. Nothing much happened. How do we explain the wide discrepancy in the performance of our airmen, bombing with uncanny accuracy at targets in the Sulu-Tawi-Tawi sector, but consistently failing in the significant target during a daytime raid in Zamboanga Sibugay?

Under the current Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), a training force of some 600 US servicemen has been deployed in Mindanao for the past several years. Next month, high-level talks between the Philippines and the United States on expanding US military presence here are to be held in Washington. This is an election year in the United States, and re-President Barack Obama faces an uphill battle to win a second term. In his re-down the American people that the United States continues to exist in the war against terror. Robert Wurdeur of the Heritage Foundation calls the Sulu operation a "big victory" for American and Philippine forces.

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A year after Ortega's killing...

LETTERS

JAN. 24 marked the first year since broadcaster and environmentalist Dr. Gerry Ortega was gunned down in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Like all 130 Filipino journalists murdered since 1986, justice has remained elusive in the Ortega murder case. We, because, in all of the 30 cases that have actually led to convictions, only the gunmen have been punished, the mastermind in the murder of a journalist has ever been punished.

What does make Ortega's case stand out is that the quick arrest by authorities following his murder established what appears to be clear links between those who carried out the hit and those who ordered it. This left everyone hopeful that, unlike in all the other media killings, the conviction of the Ortega murder would actually see the first quick apprehension, prosecution, conviction and punishment of a mastermind.

But a Department of Justice prosecution panel unjustifiably cleared the alleged mastermind and others accused of helping plan the murder of Ortega, recommending charges only against the hit men in an incomprehensible decision that ignored carnage. Although Justice Secretary Leila de Lima eventually granted a bid by Ortega's family to reinvestigate the case, to date there seems to be no indication that new findings are forthcoming.

As we mark the first anniversary of Dr. Gerry's murder, we urge the DOJ to hasten the reinvestigation and expedite and ensure a credible finding.

We challenge Secretary De Lima to grab this opportunity to strike a clear and unequivocal blow against the culture of impunity that has emboldened those who would violate our people's basic rights and who have for from a river of blood that has stained our land for the past many years.

We urge our colleagues and everyone who wants to see justice finally reign in our country to join us in this call and in persevere in the struggle for the defense of our rights and liberties.

—HECTOR S. BOCOBO JR., chair,
National Union of Journalists
of the Philippines, nujp@i-zipmail.com

No fun vacation in popular beach resort

MY TRIP to Boracay was a gift from my sibling sisters who missed me so much that it included bonding—not my idea of fun—on a monument boat for two on the beach. The rooms were unpredictable, sometimes calm, but sometimes high and angry. Our only life-saving point were the safety vests which served as jackets against splashing waves.

The two boatmen and their pike were replaced (actual who's promotional tour to repair swimmers, but whether they were trained to saving drowning people is anyone's worry. The men did not carry any cell phones for emergency or 911 calls. To our surprise, our boat could not dock at Cagnet Cove because there was no available slot. Meaning: there was no coordination between the Cagnet Cove authorities and tourist boat operators; and should any boat captain, only God's hand could pluck us from going down the sea. Thank God, we made it to Cagnet Cove, but no thanks to the boat operators and island authorities. Right starting on a monitored boat is no fun in Boracay.

Suggestion: If we want more visitors to Boracay and other islands, tourism authorities should assign patrol boats or guide and assist tourist boats whether in distress or not. There ought to be a regular monitor tourism advisory for the information of the boat-visiting public. (Can see the waves? "King-size-ka ba? Or, King-size-an po-masyado," gave the answer of a local boatman. My first-hand experience told me that no communication infrastructure exists between boats and the land. Boats can also be rained and the boat operators' floating and docking depend mainly on the natural will and supervision.

A signaling boat in the middle of the Sea of Boracay is a far cry in the realities in this age that technology has not visited Boracay's inhabited night-seeing industry. Besides, there would be boats that are docked on the mainland need a major cure and look like their boat-worthiness are questionable.

Finally, the middle aspect is a pity with only one narrow landing only. No wonder pirates that are really take-off from Manila can hardly touch down in Kalibo due to the traffic congestion. Let's not "create" more of debts to one's hard-earned income.

—ROMULO N. FERNANDEZ,
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Juan True Love!

Low fares you'll love this February

DOMESTIC	LiteFARE	INTERNATIONAL	LiteFARE
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₱1,488	Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao or Zamboanga	₱2,499	Manila to Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Macau, Phnom Penh or Xiamen (NEW) / Iloilo to Hong Kong (NEW)
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May impeachment trial unite Filipinos

IT'S INTERESTING that makes a true leader loved by his people. It is good governance that interwith an honest mind tempered with a golden heart for all—friend, ally and foe, rich and poor alike.

A statesman moves forward steadfastly and nimble ahead of his time, unswayed by the pomp and splendor of the moment, the worst of the process or things past—instead growing more by mastering the past wisdom.

With a vision of tomorrow, he elevates his mental faculties and does not subject himself to the fleeting whims of emotions which the should leave, would drag him down and blur his sight of his goals.

It takes a statesman, more than politician, to accommodate and transform things into a wonderful, beautiful world.

May the proceedings of the trial in the Senate, under the senator judges, wisely and justly and as it is, usher up into a democratic world under our people and bring peace and harmony, instead of hate, bigotry, animosity and chaos.

—LEONIDES HERNANTES,
lehernan@yahoo.com

Corona camp playing dirty

I ADMIRE Cedric Menard for her trenchant comments on yesterday's six economic issues. But I beg to disagree with her views in her par. 15 column, "He is the right man" when she says: "Just because I could be Ifunny does not deserve to be Chief Justice does not mean that I am willing to sit by while his opponents play dirty in trying to oust him from office."

Menard obviously does not realize that it is Corona who has been playing dirty his entire life. It is not two months, he used the resources, time and energy of the Supreme Court for his own defense against impeachment. He maintained an obviously leaky vessel to shore slogans at the top of their lungs during regular office hours when they should be doing their jobs, which is to decide cases and unclog the overstocks of pending cases. If Supreme Court officials and employees would continue to be court...misused would be a lenient word...on their business for Corona or every opponents, what will happen to our justice system?

Corona's tiny stinks extends into legal matters. He lead counsel, Serafin Cuevas, has objected to every piece of evidence presented by the prosecution, thus delaying the proceedings no end. As the star Cuevas is raising objections to every move by the prosecutors, I doubt if the trial will be over in scheduled years. Cuevas is said to be a good law professor in his heyday, but obviously his love is Misery Legal Tactics 101.

And if Menard thinks Corona is being attacked vs "trial by publicity" she has only to look around to find out that President Aquino is himself being discredited to end by Corona's—and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's—spokespersons. Let's not forget that the Hacienda Luisita and Mike Arroyo has been unleashed not only by the members of the Supreme Court, but also to a number of media outlets.

—ATTY. EUNE KATE KNASOL,
jackie_ignacio@yahoo.com

Senate ordered: render judgment on Corona now

I AM writing as a Filipino citizen, a member of the sovereign people of the Philippines, I am addressing this to the senator-judges and to anyone else of elected servants, as well as to the defense counsels of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The Chief Justice's assessment of courts, its behavior and trial records were declared inadequate. One understand or misunderstand properly is enough to tell me that not only has Chief Justice Corona told a simple lie, he is incapable of perjury. Therefore, he has lost the moral authority to demand that people who appear before the courts of justice tell of which we under hold tell the truth.

The sovereign people of the Philippines are the final judges. As a member of this organic body, I have rendered my judgment. Senate Corona no longer deserves to hold public office...some servants.

Therefore, I order our elected servants, the senator-judges, to render judgment right now in order to cater the people's concerns and serious cases under their job as legislators.

So ordered, even without the bang of a gavel.

—FR. ERY MANUEL C.Ss.R.,
Redemptorist Retreat House Holy Family,
Birch Hills, Barangay Lahug, Cebu City

So far, Pinoys spared in Syrian strife, says DFA

By Jerry E. Esplanada

NO CASUALTIES were killed or injured in the latest and deadliest crackdowns on protests by Syrian security forces, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said the Internet reports that "no Filipinos has been reported to have been affected by the recent violence in Syria."

Hernandez said "the same reputation of overseas Filipino workers) from Syria will be affected soon."

"Flight details will be announced this week," he added.

So far, only 93% of the 10,000 OFWs in Syria have been repatriated by the government with help from the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM).

On Saturday, Reuters reported that more than 200 people were killed in shelling by Syrian forces in the city of Homs, as the United Nations Security Council prepared to order an unarmed observer backing an Arab League call for President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

Reuters adds cited by activists and opposition groups ravaged Homs 215 in 260, making the Homs attack the deadliest so far in Assad's crackdown on protests in the last 11 months that were inspired by the uprisings that ousted three Arab leaders.

Some activists said the violence was triggered by a wave of army defections in Homs, a stronghold of protests and armed insurgents that Assad has vowed to crush.

So far, more than 5,000 people have died in the uprising, according to the UN.

Last month, the DFA raised the crisis alert level for Filipinos in Syria from 3 to 4 in view of the escalating violence.

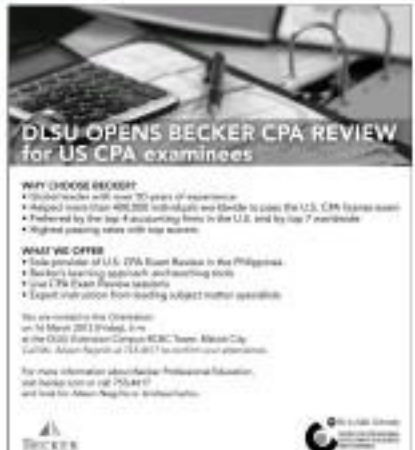
Under level 4, the mandatory or forced evacuation of OFWs at government expense is emphasized.

Foreign Secretary Alfred del Rosario called the repatriation of Filipinos from Syria a "continuing effort of the government since April 2011."

Del Rosario, who flew to Damascus late last month to convince OFW evacuation operations, had instructed the Philippine embassy in the Syrian capital to normally as of, here "for the full implementation of evacuation level 4."

A majority of the Philippine nationals in Syria, however, have ignored the government offer, prompting the DFA to informally do so from en reach out to them and reinforce them to leave.

According to Del Rosario, the Filipinos' reason for wanting to stay was that there were no opportunities for them in the Philippines, the same reason given by thousands of OFWs in Libya who opted to remain to the (now) ousted) early till-iron rashes during the eight-month-long uprising against strongman Moammar Gadhafi last year.



Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Top NPA leader in Quezon nabbed

LUCENA CITY—A suspected leader of the New People's Army in Quezon who allegedly led the slaying months ago of the provincial jail boss years ago was captured in Lopez, Quezon, on Saturday, said Col. Eduardo Ano, head of the Army's 201st Infantry Brigade.

Majorie Pilotes, 43, alias "Ka Maya Lalo," was arrested by police and Army soldiers in Barangay Catanghalayan, Lopez, at around 1:15 p.m., he said.

Ano described Pilotes as the "top commander of all NPA forces in Quezon" and a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA Southern Tagalog regional party committee, according to him.

He said a villager tipped off the authorities about the location of the wanted NPA leader.

As the government forces were serving Pilotes's four warrants of arrest for murder charges, but also identified as Jose Ortiz opened fire in the arresting team and escaped, Ano said.

Pilotes is detained at the police jail in Lopez town, he said. —Joel T. Medinilla Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

AN OFFICIAL of the San Roque Metals Inc. shows to MGB national director Leo Jasareno (center) and Toboy Mayor Jaddie Sarmiento the extent of nickel mine operations in Toboy, Agusan del Norte.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PHOTO BY JOEL T. MEDINILLA JR.

4 large-scale mining firms in Caraga under MGB probe

Environmental raps baseless, says company

BUTUAN CITY—Four large-scale mining firms based in the Caraga region, including two of the country's leading exporters of nickel ore, are being investigated for alleged violations of environmental and health laws, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

MGB Director Leo Jasareno on Friday said the investigation was based on several complaints from environmentalist groups and local officials against the companies operations.

"The issues raised by environmental groups and local government units concerned were siltation, pollution, health hazards and inappropriate of extraction, [nuisance fees and taxes]," Jasareno told the Inquirer.

He identified the firms as Taganito Mining Corp. (TMC), Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) and Claver Mining Corp., all based in Claver, Surigao del Norte, and San Roque Metals Inc. (SRMI) in Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

Ryan Galmen, spokesperson of SRMI, said the nickel seller was baseless and was only meant to harass them.

TMC and PGMC are among the country's leading exporters of nickel ore to Japan, China and Australia.

The firms' mine sites were attacked by communist rebels last year on what a rebel leader called "revolutionary" punishment for causing massive environmental havoc and displacing indigenous communities.

Lapses

Jasareno said Friday's aerial survey and related ocular inspection of the mine sites showed "lapses" on the part of the firms' compliance with environmental and health hazard laws.

"We found siltation along the coastal shores in Surigao del Norte and there are [environmental lapses]," he said.

These environmental lapses, he said, which posed serious threats to the environment and health hazards to local communities were valid grounds for the closure of the firms.

"Still, workers in the companies will be sent and multipartite monitoring teams are going to the areas again for confirmation, and if they find [a reasonable] explanation, there is still for a valid ground to close down their operations," Jasareno said.

He said they would do so second time in the effort to ensure Caraga mining industry and promote responsible and sustainable mining.

Dubbed the country's new mining capital, Caraga reportedly holds half of Mindanao's mineral deposits. It is touted to have 82 billion words of gold deposits, and huge deposits of nickel and ferronickel ores.

Shelved applications

At least 14 mining firms are operating in various parts of Caraga, while 15 others are doing exploration operations.

"We close no one. The MGB is just upholding its mandate of [where] nobody will be thrown out and [get] displaced."

To show that the agency is determined to allow only those firms which adhere to environmental laws and social responsibilities to operate, more than 71 [unacceptable] mining applicants for large and medium-scale mining and/or region had already been denied.

Environmentalist activist Oma Lopez, who joined Jasareno and several other journalists in Friday's inspection of the 1,300 hectares of mining area of SRMI in Tubay town lamented that the mining operations had turned the town into an eyesore.

Lopez also raised before the Boac officials their supposed failure to pay the town's [deposit] requirements amid [a whopping P1.1-billion] revenue they were generating.

Tubay Mayor Saddie Garcia-Sarmiento said the municipal government had long issued a closure order to SRMI for alleged failure to pay millions of pesos in [extraction fees] and [taxes and violations of environmental laws], but the firm had [remained defiant].

"So far as SRMI is concerned, we committed no environmental lapses. We performed our social responsibilities and paid our dues. We are very transparent that's why we welcome [the inspection]," Galmen said. —Franklin A. Caldejeld, Inquirer Mindanao

SSS PENSIONER KA BA?

PARA SA IYO ANG BALITANG ITO!

Tinatawagan ang lahat ng retiree at death pensioners sa ilalim ng programa ng Social Security (SS) at Employees' Compensation (EC) na tumugon sa ANNUAL CONFIRMATION OF PENSIONERS (ACOP) Program **upang tuloy-tuloy ninyong matanggap ang inyong pensyon.**

ANO ANG DAPAT GAWIN NG PENSYONADO?

- Kapag natanggap na ang liham mula sa SSS, punuhin sa pinakamaliwanag na sulatan nito kung ang tinatanggap na pensyon ay tama o kung under-/overdeductions, o sa tanggap kung saan inilipat tinatanggap ang inyong pensyon, gamit ang Annual Confirmation. Ang buwan ng pagratito o pagkakamatay ang tanging kung pensyonadong pagpunan sa SSS o sa kanyang/ka.
- Dadalo sa SSS o sa kanyang ang liham at inyong SS card o reference slip/stamp (2) valid IDs, na pinahang nagpapangalan sa inyong buong pangalan.

PAANO KUNG HINDI KAYA NG PENSYONADO NA PUNUHIN ANG PERSONAL NA SSS O SA BANGKO?

- Punuan ang "ACOP Form" na inabilig ng liham na iginuhit ng SSS sa mga pensyonado at bumile ito sa SSS sa pamamagitan ng isyang kinatawan o tagakuha na kanan ay pinakinabang ng sangay ng SSS ng inyong kasalukuyang tirahan kasama ang mga sumusunod:

Kung kaya ay ikaw ay residente:

1. Sketch ng inyong kasalukuyang tirahan;
2. Sertipikasyon mula sa kinaroroonan ng pensyonado ng kanyang kung saan niya tinatanggap ang inyong pensyon (o sa pagbaba) na nagpapatunay sa inyong existence at residency kasama ang [illegible] ng [illegible] ng sertipikasyong pagkamatay, at
3. Medical certificate na ginawa sa loob ng 12 buwan bago ang buling araw ng pagbigay, na sertipikado ng isang licensed-practicing doctor, kasama ang number ng kanyang lisensiya at petsa ng kanyang isinilaw. Sa ay nasa labas ng pagdiliyensya.

Kung kaya ay nanirahan sa ibang bansa:

1. Kopya ng valid passport kung saan nakikita ang pinakahuli o
2. Alinsang (2) valid IDs, na pinahang may tagalo, at ang isa sa mga iyon, na tinatgan ng kulay country, gamit ang valid, tagalog sa loob ng tinatag (2) taon bago ang petsa ng pagbigay.

Kung nakaratay sa ospital sa mga sumusunod na institusyon: retirement/survivor form, valid identification, affidavit of loss/lost/ng pulang:

- Sertipikasyon galing sa kinatibing tinitirahan ng nagpapatunay ng pagkamatay o pagkapili ng pensyonado.

KUNG HINDI KAYO MAKATANGGAP NG LIHAM MULA SA SSS, BAKLAN ITO KAAGAD SA PINAKAMALAPIT NA SANGAY NG SSS SA IYONG KASALUKUYANG TIRAHAN.

SA MAAGAP NA PAGTUGON, TULOY-TULOY ANG INYONG PENSYON!

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - February 6, 2012
3rd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 KGS 8:1-7, 9-13

Solomon assembled before him in Jerusalem the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, as well as the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh from the city of David, which is Zion.

All the Israelites assembled near King Solomon in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month. When all the elders of Israel arrived, the priests carried the ark of Yahweh and brought it up together with the Tent of Meeting and all the holy vessels that were in the tent. Also the priests and Levites had brought them up. King Solomon and the whole community of Israel that had assembled before him sacrificed so many sheep and oxen that they could neither be counted nor numbered. Then the priests had the ark of the covenant of Yahweh set in place in the inner sanctuary of the House - the Most Holy Place - under the wings of the cherubim. The cherubim had their wings spread out over the place of the ark, providing a covering above the ark and its poles.

There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses placed there at Horeb, where Yahweh made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, such a cloud filled the whole House that the priests could not continue to minister. Indeed, the glory of Yahweh filled the House.

Then Solomon said, "Yahweh has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. So this House I have built you will be your House, a place that you can dwell in forever."

Gospel: Mark 6:53-56

After they crossed the lake, Jesus and his disciples came ashore at Gennesaret where they moored the boat. As soon as they landed, people recognized Jesus and ran to spread the news throughout the countryside. Wherever he was they brought to him the sick lying on their mats, and wherever he went, in villages, towns or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. And all who touched it were cured.

Reflection

Humility is a child gesture. Its sound like *Jagged Whatever* to hear were using "Hey, Oh Jim" a few days later. Jesus went through that. The rest of us, with less exposure, would settle for less. Desmond Tutu's motto, like ours, and it is a kind of grace, sometimes called a "glory I small change." There is the personality type described as "the pleaser". Such a person will never challenge you, they will love much or even good opinion of them. But it backfires since people would prefer that you said what you thought. "He never had pleased or had to please me later."

Chronicles Communications Workplace Inc., 8 Monterrey Street, UP Village, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, tel. 920-6401 (www.920-6400, fax 920-6401, e-mail: ..., website: ... Publication any website: ...

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Nueva Ecija mayor, aide hurt in gun attack

CUEBBA, Nueva Ecija—The mayor of Carranglan town and his driver were wounded after two men on board a motorcycle shot them in Barangay Sumacab Sur on Saturday afternoon, police said.

Carranglan Mayor Bartolomeo Abad and Private First Class Jacky Dacluyan, his driver and security aide, were taken to Guimba District Hospital but were later transferred to a hospital in Cabanatuan City, said Senior Supt. Roberto Allagapiyo, Nueva Ecija police director.

Allagapiyo said Abad suffered two bullet wounds in his left armpit and shoulder while Dacluyan had three bullet wounds in his neck and hand. Abad's wife, Shiny, who was also on board the mayor's Ford Everest, was unhurt.

Police said Abad and his wife attended a fiestaseason event in Guimba and were on their way home when they were attacked at about 3:30 p.m.

Jose Berbino Bautista, a resident of Cabanatuan and the driver of the motorcycle used in the crime, was later arrested by police operatives.

Pascual identified the gunman as Jonathan Carpio, also of Cabanatuan, who is being hunted by the police.

Pascual said Carpio inherited him of the enmity of their job a few minutes before the attack. "I was not informed that my target is a mayor," he said.

Supt. Fernando Dayrit, Cuebba police chief, said Bautista would be charged with double frustrated murder.

In Calauan, Northern Samar, a village chief was shot dead on Sunday morning by alleged reinstated rebels on his way to attend a barangay session in Pambujan town.

Ernesto Saning, barangay captain of Binak, was driving a motorcycle while his wife, Elna, rode on the back when three armed men waylaid him on the national Basher Road about 8:30 a.m.

The rebels told Bonifay's wife to get down from the motorcycle before they shot at the victim in the front and parts of his body.

The couple came from their house in the Pambujan town proper and were heading to the barangay hall, about four kilometers away, to attend the session. *Reports from Armando Galang, Inquirer Central Luzon; Rachel Arnaiz and Joey A. Roberto, Inquirer Visayas*

Ebdane wins special poll in Zambales

By Robert Quiaggi
Inquirer Central Luzon

IBA, ZAMBALES—The Ebdane family's political fortunes is rising in Zambales with the victory of Jun Omar Ebdane, who won as second district representative in the special election here on Saturday.

Ebdane, 37, son of Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., beat four other candidates and was proclaimed by the provincial board of canvassers on Sunday as the new representative who would fill in the seat left vacant by the death of Rep. Antonio Diaz last year.

Ebdane, who ran under the Partido ng Manggagawa at Magsasaka, received 62,867 votes while his closest rival, former Sen. Gen. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla (United Party), got 56,945 votes. Dan's daughter, Rita Victoria Dita-Arambulo (Nacionalista Party), was third with 17,251 votes.

Board member Wilfredo Pangan and Alfred Mendoza, who ran as independent candidates, received 3,058 and 1,514 votes, respectively.

Voter turnout was recorded at 73.91 percent, with 142,399 of 206,814 registered voters in the 10 towns of the second district trooping to precincts.

In Manila, Commission on Elections spokesperson James Jimenez said the second district covers the provincial capital Iba and the towns of Botolan, Cabangan, Candelaria, Masinloc, Palauig, San Antonio, San Felipe, San Narciso and Santa Cruz.

He said the canvassing board finished its tally at around 10 a.m. but it took more than an hour for the documentation to finish before the proclamation could take place.

"I was nervous during the election, but I can breathe easy now," the young Ebdane told the reporters on Sunday.

Asked if his victory signals the start of the Ebdane family's domination in Zambales over its old political families, like the Magsaysay clan, he said, "I don't think so."

Ebdane, the former provincial administrator, said his legislative agenda is ready. "But I still have to discuss [with my team] which ones will be our top priorities. We will focus not only in providing scholarships for students here, but also creating job opportunities for them," he said.

To his political rivals, he said: "My only message is it's all finished. Let's unite. Campaign, the election, is over. Politics is over. Let's get back to work."

Governor Ebdane, the former chief of the Philippine National Police, said he is not building a political dynasty in Zambales.

Lawyer Elmer Gabila-Jarolid, Zambales election supervisor, described the election as "peaceful, orderly and clean," saying there was no report of any violent incident on election day.

He said the killing of Omar Madrid, a bodyguard of former Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, when police raided over a clash with a group of policemen manning a checkpoint in Botolan town on the eve of election, could not be classified as election-related.

He said Madrid was the subject of an arrest warrant for a criminal charge.

Senior Supt. Francisco Antiquejo, Zambales police director, said police reminder Madrid's death as election-related.

Ebdane claimed that Madrid and his men were in the area to disperse people undertaking vote-buying operations that would benefit the young Ebdane. With a report from Jovanie Aning, in Manila

[LAWMAKER Ebdane (in red shirt) a proclaimed winner of the special election in the second congressional district of Zambales on Sunday. His father, Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. (right), joins the proclamation ceremony holding members of the provincial board of canvassers.

5,000 'reefbuds' to repair Boracay's coral reef system

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—Spending for drastic interventions, representatives of various sectors launched on Sunday a P66-million artificial reef project aimed at rehabilitating the island's almost totally decimated coral reef system.

The Code Blue project, which involves the placing of 5,000 "reefbuds" in a 3.4-kilometer stretch parallel to Boracay's shoreline, is considered the most extensive artificial reef project launched in the country, said Jose Rodriguez, vice chair of the Sangbuklurosan cooperative.

"Code Blue is a medical term for a critical situation when a patient is dying and in need of drastic intervention. Let us not wait for death to come," Rodriguez said during the launch.

He said the project aimed to help stop the destruction of the island's coral reefs reckoned to be less than 10 percent of its original state some hamid on-camera studies.

The hollow pyramid-shape reefbud, which measures 1.3 meters by 1.2 m and weighs around 450-600 kilograms, is made from a mixture of organic and inorganic materials, said Benjie Tayag.

Tayag helped design the structures using locally made products from a design of Austrian geomorphologist Harald Gruenhagen.

The reefbuds, costing around P9,000 each, were also used in similar projects in Rosario town in Cavite and in Subic in Zambales town in Batangas.

Tayag said the reefbud enhances the production of algae which serves as fish food. Its hollow shape also serves as fish spawning ground.

But it will take years for the coral reefs and other marine life to recover. Coral reefs grow approximately a centimeter each year.

"We hope to restore from 20 to 30 percent of the coral reefs here in 20 years," Tayag said in a press conference following the launching.

Felipe Balbontin, Sangbuklurosan chair, said extended monitoring and regular inspections were needed to ensure that the reefbuds and the marine life that it would generate were preserved.

Coral reefs act as home and nursing grounds of various fish species, and serve as natural buffer for strong waves. Their destruction is caused by many factors, including typhoons, hurricanes, temperature, unregulated tourism and overfishing.

The destruction of coral reefs in Boracay is primarily blamed on unregulated fishing and boating activities when boats drop and drag their anchor on coral reefs.

Federico "Boy" Jimenezlla, owner of Sea Wind Boats, say vessel and a jeepney factory, said he had observed the drastic reduction of coral reefs in the past 20 years in his constant diving.

"It's like a graveyard of coral reefs down there," he told the boatmen.

He said the destruction of the coral reefs would eventually affect the famous white beach of the island because of dead corals being swept to the shoreline.

Fishermen said they started placing clusters of reefbuds in January and is targeting the deployment of all 5,000 by May.

As of Sunday, 270 reefbuds have been deployed, a fisherman from the shoreline by-laws using a large sand crane.

Mayor John Yap of Malay town where Boracay is located said the town would be supportive to the project since against illegal fishing and destructive boat activities. He said the current ban on fishing 500 m from the shoreline could be also extended.

Elena Bengzon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)-Boracay and environmental conservation and rehabilitation projects) had become more urgent in Boracay due to the continued increase in tourist arrivals.

Tourist arrivals on the island have consistently increased reaching 908,817 last year and generating P19 billion in revenues.

Hoteliers on the island are expected to reach a million this year.

But the island's environment has become critical after decades of unregulated development caused by the tourism boom. Flood-refuse and pollution had plagued the island including flooding because wastewater is untreated and developed to make way for resorts and hotels.

The partners of the project include the Cooperative Development Authority, Malay local government, Boracay Association of Scuba-diving Schools, PCCI-Boracay, Sea Wind Boracay resort, White House Boracay resort), Boracay Property Philippines Inc., and Cosmo Boracay Water Theater and the Don Cesario Boracay Trust Foundation.

Doppler radar gives 'near-perfect forecast' of rains

By Ray Hakol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Weathermen and Bicol's disaster officials are anticipating the activation of the state-of-the-art Doppler radar in Catanduanes after forecasters here successfully tested its capability to provide a "near-perfect forecast."

The test, conducted by weather forecasters here as the threats of day-to-day rains, were newly predicted the rains that were then going to come to it, but that day, said Leandro Clemente Jr., chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in Bicol.

Clemente said weather forecasters underwent a three-week training from Jan. 9-21, focusing on the maintenance, operation and interpretation of the radar pictures.

He said the training helped forecasters to become more confident in their forecasts, especially with regard to evaluating the rains.

Clemente said the "hot-test test," or validation test, was successfully conducted on Feb. 2, when forecasters were able to predict the heavy rains to come to Albay by 10 a.m. that day.

[RISING The Doppler dome, weathermen Fred Wirz, Agustin Bokser and the Pagasa central office facilitators themselves with the Doppler radar" is erected under the guidance of Japanese technicians.

Calixto said that on the day they predicted about 12:04 millimeter per hour of heavy rains that would be pouring until each evening.

He said that the results were sent to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda and to Cedric Daep, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, and those were subsequently used to warn the people in the third district of Albay especially those people living near the foot of Mount Mayon.

"So we are now starting to use its near-perfect forecast with regard to the rains but since the Doppler radar has not been turned over officially we are not giving the results to the public but limited [the results] to the disaster managers of the province especially to Albay," said Dalida.

The new Doppler radar in Barangay Gigmoto, the first of three units being built in the country's low-land coastal areas, is developed by Japanese engineers, is set to operate in March.

Salceda, chairperson of the Bicol Regional Development Council, said that with the Doppler radar in place, forecasters would have longer lead-time, estimated to be at least six hours, to determine the rain contents of tropical cyclones and give disaster authorities time to decide and implement preventive measures.

He said that although rain gauges are good instruments to determine the rainfall rate, they do not tell the total information the amounts of rain before it falls, something that the new Doppler radar can now do.

Dalida said this new technology uses the new S-band system that transmits electromagnetic waves to detect and provide information on rainfall intensity and coverage, wind velocity and speed.

The S-band, according to Daliday, is defined as standard for radio waves with frequencies that range from 2 to 4 gigahertz. It is used by weather radar, surface ship radar, and some communication satellites, especially those used by National Aeronautics and Space Administration to communicate with the space shuttle and the International Space Station.

By using the solid-state technology he said the new Doppler radar would no longer use the US-made vacuum magnetron (a device use to emit power in the radar can detect clouds), which cost P3 million.

The new Doppler radar is more economical because of its low power consumption of 18 kilowatts as compared to the previous 300-kW power used of a magnetron, while maintaining accuracy and efficiency of the radar, he said.

"The next-generation channel-by-channel Doppler radar is that inside those domes. ing the clouds, it penetrates the inside the clouds," he said.

The new Doppler radar, he added, sees droplets like cloud, full volume of the clouds. In it reveals wind velocity and speed, thus giving an early warning to the community where the clouds are going and how much rainfall is here contain.

Dalida said this could help assess the local government units in advance so that preemptive evacuation could be done with minimal damage and fewer deaths or is lost, save casualty.

Dalida explained the case with the new radar in Catanduanes, the Pagasa would still maintain the three existing Weather Stations (AWS) in Virac and Libon towns, and the cities of Legazpi and Tabaco, all in Albay.

He said the AWS and the Doppler would "work perfectly together as the Doppler serves as early monitoring while the AWS continuously monitors the data gathered by the radar system."

NEWSBRIEFS

■ MAGUINDANAO

2 teachers slain

TWO PUBLIC school teachers of remote villages in Maguindanao were killed inside their classrooms in separate incidents last week, police said on Friday.

Linda Pagaduan, 51, of Barangay Kabpalacan Pakatan town was killed inside her classroom at Kabpalacan Elementary School at 10:45 a.m. on Friday by two armed men, who fled on a motorcycle.

Pagaduan was holding a class when the gunmen barged in and ordered the students to get out of the classroom. The shot her after the children had left.

Allan Mahilum, 32, was stabbed dead on Wednesday inside his classroom in Barangay Magulayan in Datu Unsay town.

Police said Mahilum was murdered by Benny Dalisay, 32, while his pupils were home on a lunch break and Mahilum was inside his classroom at Magulayan Elementary School.

Mahilum was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to multiple stab wounds.

Jonas Cabiles Dollar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ DAGUPAN CITY

DBP employee killed

A BANKER was killed while his 18-year-old nephew was wounded after they were shot by a policeman on Saturday.

Joanel Estrella, 49, employee of the Development Bank of the Philippines, was hit in the left side of his body with the bullet hitting his heart.

Karl Fullmore, of Barangay Dominguesan, was shot in the left hand but the bullet hit his stomach.

Supt. Romulo Police Director Senior Supt. Ricardo de la Paz.

PO3 Mario Tolibio was detained at the Bautista Police Precinct 4. He denied shooting the victims.

Carlo P. Bonoc, Inquirer Pangasinan

■ NORTH COTABATO

2 slain in ambush

TWO PERSONS were killed when ambushed in Kidapawan town on Saturday.

Barangay Counselor and Tang Mantawil, residents of Magsaysay, were heading home around 10:20 p.m. aboard a motorbike from Kidapawan when gunmen fired at them along the national highway.

Kidapawan City Chief Senior Supt. Danilo Salmon said the victims were pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital due to head wounds. Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAVAO CITY

S. Duterte: 15

SOLONS Pia Cayetano, mother of vice mayor Paolito Duterte and grandmother of Mayor Sara Duterte, died at 3 a.m. on Saturday.

Duterte, 68, family's helped fan the Filipinos "Manny Boxing," died at Davao Doctors' Hospital, where the family immediately arrangements were and for her cremation.

Nancy Binay was at the forefront of the Fellow Friday Mass at the Pasay City Hall to help fan the February Edsa Revolution that pushed former President Corazon Aquino to power. Sabrina Rep. Luz Ilagan remembers Nancy Binay as the rousing face behind women's organizing during the Martial Law.

Jim Villaflores, Jaime Laya, Inquirer Mindanao

MINDANAO DECLARATION

Defending the Dignity of Life, Securing our Future:

REPEAL R.A. 7942, ENACT the Minerals Management Bill, MORATORIUM on Large-Scale Mining!

APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY DURING THE 2012 International Conference on Mining in Mindanao, January 26 & 27, 2012 at the Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City (Abridged).

AWARE of the current state of the mining industry in the Philippines driven by corporate greed and the existing policy framework promoted by the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and inherited by President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III,

AWARE that harsh effects of mining on water systems, biodiversity, air, land and island ecosystems lead to environmental destructions and disasters aggravating the impacts of hydro-meteorological hazards and threatening agriculture and food security,

AWARE that the contribution of mining and quarrying in the Gross Domestic Product of the country, averaged over the years 2000 to 2009, is only 0.9%,

AWARE that mining companies in collaboration with concerned government agencies have been grossly violating human rights of communities and advocates, dividing and exploiting indigenous peoples communities and perpetuating other acts degrading human dignity,

AWARE that small-scale miners and workers have been blamed for various environmental disasters by the Chamber of Mines in favor of large mining companies, however, further aware that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and other agencies failed to fulfill its mandate to provide technical and, when displaced, extend immediate sustainable economic assistance,

AWARE that the number of local government units who are standing up to oppose mining in their respective jurisdictions is increasing, however, not recognized by the national government and mining companies,

We call for the REPEAL OF THE MINING ACT OF 1995 (RA 7942) and REVOCATION OF ARROYO'S REVITALIZATION OF THE MINING INDUSTRY (EO 270 and 270-A), which are ANTI-FILIPINO, ANTI-ENVIRONMENT AND VIOLATIVE OF HUMAN RIGHTS,

We call for the ENACTMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED ALTERNATIVE MINERALS MANAGEMENT BILL pending in the House of Representatives,

We further call for an IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM on large-scale mining and suspension and cancellation, if applicable, of all mining operations, licenses and applications, while the relevant mining policies are being reviewed; and concerned government agencies be held accountable.

With this declaration, we therefore invoke OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO A BALANCED AND HEALTHFUL ECOLOGY IN THE SPIRIT OF PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND INTER-GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

We reiterate the words of MACLIING DULAG, environmental martyr of the Cordilleras: *"Such arrogance to speak of owning the land, when you shall be owned by it. How can you own that which will outlive you?"*

LET THIS DECLARATION RECLAIM THIS LAND FOUGHT FOR BY THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.

ALL THESE FOR TRUTH, COUNTRY, AND THE COMMON GOOD.

ASSENTING:

Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao
Alyansa Tigil Mina
Ateneo de Davao University
Bayan Muna Party List
Bishop-Lumad Ministry
Bukidnon Peoples Alliance
Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
Catholic Mass Media Network
Center for Environmental Concerns
Coalition Against Unjust Servitude
Concerned Citizens of Tampakan
Diocesan Commission on Justice and Peace
Diocesan Ecology Desk
Diocesan Social Action Center - Malaybalay
Diocesan Social Action Center - Marbel
Diocesan Social Action Center - Surigao
Diocesan Social Action Center - Tagbilaran
Diocesan Social Action Center - Tandag
Diocesan Social Action Center - Tarlac
Diocesan Social Action Center - Tuguegarao
Diocesan Social Action Center - Virac
Diocesan Social Action Center - Zamboanga
Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc.
Environmental Legal Assistance Center
Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
Gabriela Women's Party List
Haribon Foundation
Indigenous Peoples Rights Alliance
Initiatives for International Dialogue
Institute of Environmental Conservation and Research - Ateneo de Naga University
Institute of Spirituality in Asia
Interface Development Interventions
Jesuit Mission Board
Kalumaran - Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas
Kilusang Mayo Uno
Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center
Lingkod Tao Kalikasan
Mangingisda at Sambahan Para Sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura
Mount Apo Foundation, Inc.
Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park Foundation, Inc.
Mount Matutum Protected Landscape
Mount Natib Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.
Mount Pulag National Park Conservation Foundation, Inc.
Mount Timpoong-Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument Foundation, Inc.
Mt. Apo Protected Landscape
Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary
Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park
Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park
Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape
Mt. Timpoong-Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument
Mt. Urdaneta Protected Landscape
Mt. Victoria Protected Landscape
Mt. Zion Protected Landscape
Mt. Zion Wildlife Sanctuary
Mt. Zion Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation, Inc.
Mt. Zion Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation, Inc.
Mt. Zion Wildlife Sanctuary Foundation, Inc.

Trial verdict before Holy Week urged

By Gil C. Cabacungan

IT IS "for the best of everybody" for the Senate impeachment court to come up with a verdict—conviction or acquittal of Chief Justice Renato Corona—before Congress adjourns on March 23, a spokesperson of the House prosecution team said yesterday.

The general timetable, including on the part of the defense, is to wrap up before the Holy Week break because the longer it takes, the more deliberation, the more damaging it becomes to all democratic institutions," said Marikina City Rep. Romero Quimbo.

QUIMBO

Quimbo said concluding the trial as soon as possible would also benefit Corona.

"We have to get the judgment out," Quimbo said. "We get a judgment of conviction, which is something that we clearly want, or a judgment of acquittal on the Chief Justice can proceed with his job and return to the Supreme Court, that is the best for all institutions," the congressman said.

Quimbo said the prosecution team remained optimistic about its chances of convicting Corona.

He statement came after the prosecution's presentation of the second impeachment article took all of first three weeks of the trial which began on Jan. 16.

Article 2 accuses Corona of betrayal of public trust for failing to disclose the true ownership of his liabilities and net worth.

With more than a 100 prosecution witnesses and another 45 defense witnesses, pundits are worried that the trial could extend up to July or August.

But Quimbo said the prosecution would conclude its presentation of Article 2 by tomorrow and it is expected to start presentation of Article 3 on Wednesday.

"We hope to finish it in four or five trial days and move on in the next one which should take one or three trial dates," said Quimbo. The Senate holds trial from Monday to Thursday beginning 2 p.m.

Article 3 accuses Corona of culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust for his "failure to meet and observe the stringent standards of the Constitution that a member of the judiciary must live a private of proven competence, integrity, probity and independence in allowing the Supreme Court to act on cases before filed by a counsel which caused the appearance of flip-flopping decisions to final and executory cases."

TAÑADA

Stricter guidelines on SALNs in FOI bill

By Gil Cabacungan

THE HOUSE of Representatives wants to impose stricter guidelines on the filing of statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) under the President of Information (FOI) bill.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said that he would insert a provision in the FOI bill which would bar public officials from making any corrections on their statements of assets that were passed on government websites.

"This provision should prevent public officials from abusing the rule which allows for corrections in SALN declarations without any criminal liability as long as they correct what they have done unintentionally or without any malice," said Tañada, whose FOI bill was the blueprint for Malacañang's version.

He said SALNs would gain "higher respect" if all public officials would be forced to file willfully comply with this requirement.

The lawmaker said the Senate's decision whether to sconce or acquit impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona for betrayal of public trust for failing to file his SALNs completely and truthfully would be key in the witness in making. SALN a more rigid standard in determining the personal wealth of public officials.

"The decision of the Supreme Court shows that corrections on the SALN were frowned upon and not allowed because SALN is made under oath. Consequently, public officials have been dismissed for failure to file a truthful SALN," Tañada said.

He said he expected the senator-judges in the Senate impeachment court to impose the same ruling on Corona like what he and the rest of the members of the Supreme Court had done to GMA if convicted.

Tañada was optimistic that the public information committee would approve the FOI bill for plenary debates before the end of the month.

"We plan to approve the FOI bill on third reading before we adjourn in June so the President could use this as one of his legislative achievements in his State of the Nation Address in July," he said.

Corona welcomes Tupas' disclosure on properties

By Marlon Ramos

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona regarded as a "welcome admission" the disclosure of Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. head of the House prosecution team, that the Chief Justice did not own 45 properties as the prosecution earlier claimed, a defense lawyer said yesterday.

Tanuspal Salvador III said Tupas' revelation on the 11th day of the impeachment trial in the Senate on Feb. 2 was "just consistent" with Corona's claim that he only had five properties registered in his name.

"For him, it was a welcome admission because even at the outset, the Chief Justice was saying (he) has more only five properties," Salvador said in a media interview.

SALVADOR

"I think, slowly but surely, we're making the public understand that although we have no pecuniary resources, it's not true that Corona owns 45 properties," he said.

Salvador said Corona was clearly maximizing his time with most trial and was regularly meeting with members of the defense panel.

Amid the continued attacks on his character, Corona is ready to face consequences of the impeachment trial, the defense lawyer said.

"He's aware that this is the reality being a lawyer himself. He knew he would face dirty tricks and vilification," Salvador said.

"I know it's hard for the family especially when (Corona) sees his wife and children hurt by the accusations. But he's aware of the possible consequences, whether it be good or bad."

Replying to Sen. Francis Escudero's query, Tupas admitted that the prosecution would not be able to present during the proceedings documents pertaining to the 45 properties.

This prompted Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. to remind Tupas that he made statements regarding the unconstitutional of the prosecution's previous claim that the Chief Justice owned parcels of land and condominium units.

Tupas said the information about Corona's alleged properties came from the Land Registration Authority and not the prosecution.

Where Estrada pointed out that the prosecution held a press briefing regarding the 45 properties, Tupas claimed that the press conference was only about Corona's penthouse unit in the story The Bellagio in Taguig City.

However, members of the media who covered the news conference recalled that it was Marikina City Rep. Miro Quimbo, the prosecution spokesperson, who first divulged the details of Corona's properties.

Senate takes up Corona's bank records

From page A1

dismiss of the impeachment court getting the bank documents where the motion for a subpoena was filed.

Enrile, the presiding officer of the impeachment trial, would not grant the request unless there is a specific basis accounts they wanted bank authorities to produce in court.

"The they want us to announce all bank accounts in the whole world? We don't know. We never thought about in Filipino at the time. Otherwise, the candidates (who) guaranteed by banks would be violated, he said.

A senator judge, who refused to be identified, said it was premature for the court to issue a subpoena for dollar and other foreign currency accounts that may be traced to Corona.

"So far as I know, that would be a matter of the investigation. It is not really allowed in the case of dollar accounts, while the peso accounts are likely to be subpoenaed," the senator judge told the reporters.

Lawyers of Corona accused prosecutors of resorting to unlawful means by presenting to the Senate "confidential" bank documents in their attempt to subpoena two private banks.

Signature card

Ramon Esguerra, a defense lawyer, said the prosecutors attached an unauthenticated copy of Corona's alleged signature card to Philbank with the pleading they filed in the Senate on Feb. 1.

The pleading was a rejoinder to the prosecution's earlier motion for the issuance of subpoena for the Chief Justice's bank records.

"This is illegal under the law. Whoever attached that document to the (prosecution's) petition and then sources have criminal liabilities," Esguerra told the reporters over the phone.

"Since that document is considered confidential, obviously the prosecution used unlawful means by presenting to the Senate 'confidential' bank documents in their attempt to subpoena two private banks.

CORONA

Deposit at $700,000

The account, which Corona reportedly opened four years ago, allegedly contained $700,000 as initial deposit.

Esguerra, a former justice undersecretary, called on the Senate impeachment court to take the prosecution's "premature disclosure" with grave concern.

"This issue is very serious. The prosecutors were asking the Senate to subpoena a document which was actually in their possession already," he pointed out.

The defense also claimed that the court may also be violated Anti-Wiretapping Law if the subpoena for the Chief Justice's bank records.

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'Fruit of poisonous tree'

"Obviously, the attached unauthenticated signature card... are documents obtained from an illegal source ... They are fruits of the poisonous tree," he added. He said Malaya publisher Jake Maronan had "declared possession" of the document.

It is unclear what they would file today. Corona's lawyers would ask the Senate to compel Philippine Savings Bank to explain how they were able to get hold of Corona's alleged bank record.

In their motion, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, the defense said the prosecutors ignored the procedures by documents and the prosecution of documents" and that "the possession of which raises the presumption of criminal liability."

"It is imperative that the prosecution be required to disclose in more specific terms to get a copy of the signature card which supposedly belongs to the Chief Justice," he said.

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'Fruit of poisonous tree'

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Citing Republic Act No. 6426, or the Foreign Currency Deposit Act, the defense said Corona's alleged dollar account was "declared and treated as part of an absolutely confidential nature."

"It is clear that no banking secrecy deposit can be established, inquired or looked into except upon written permission of the depositor, given in accordance with the aforesaid and covers all cases of whatever nature, including impeachment," Corona's lawyers said.

In addition, RA No. 1405, or the Bank Secrecy Act, disclosed the illegal deposit of foreign currency deposits and other dollar deposits, the defense said.

"It goes without saying, therefore, that, complainants and counsel, as well as the person who disclosed copies of the alleged dollar account to reporters of the Manila prosecution and to this (foreign currency) account of Corona and his children, violated RA 1405," it said.

'Dead issue'

Tanuspal Salvador III, the defense panel's spokesperson, scalled the prosecution for making a terrible out of their request to subpoena bank documents and officials of Philbank and SBN.

"This is already a dead issue which the prosecution is trying to revive," Salvador said in a separate phone interview.

"The Senate impeachment court, not the allegation of ill-gotten wealth from the impeachment proceedings. And the issue is whether the bank records is clearly included in that allegations in their graft 2 (of Article 2)," he said.

Salvador said the second of eight articles of impeachment only alleged Corona's failure to file and disclose his SALNs.

He dismissed the prosecution for issuing "unauthorized statements" in leaving Corona with "no choice" but to defend himself.

Tañada said he expected the senator-judges in the Senate impeachment court to impose the same ruling on Corona like what he and the rest of the members of the Supreme Court had done to GMA if convicted.

Tañada was optimistic that the public information committee would approve the FOI bill for plenary debates before the end of the month.

"We plan to approve the FOI bill on third reading before we adjourn in June so the President could use this as one of his legislative achievements in his State of the Nation Address in July," he said.

P-Noy falls back on myth of Potemkin villages

From page A1

Bunjao Rizes in order to impress the monarch and her entourage (which included for ego ambassadors) with the value of her now conquest of territories in Spain's expansion. Considered, this embarrassing hi-wanding to the empress' eyes."

Potemkin, who led the Crimean military campaign, was also the lover of Catherine the Great.

Modern historians are divided on the degree of truth behind Potemkin villages. Some historians argue that Potemkin "did mount efforts to develop the Crimea and probably directed peasants to spruce up the river front in advance of the empress' arrival."

Largely fictional

A Russian historian, Alek. sander Panchenko, an authoritative specialist on 18th century Russia, concluded that the myth of Potemkin village had been in reality.

"Potemkin really did build much towns and villages, but he never denied that they were theatrical sets," Danchenko wrote.

"Potemkin's goal was to demonstrate that the vast regions he governed were already practically civilized, or was at least successfully becoming civilized, by showing a vision of what the area would become, using screens on which villages were painted and driving flocks of sheep each night to the next stop along the route."

According to Brian Mclaughlin, the story of "fake settlements with glowing lies designed to comfort the monarch and her entourage as they navigated the barren terrain, at night, is largely fictional."

The term "Potemkin villages" has also been used to describe the attempts of the former Soviet Union to fool foreign visitors.

In modern political usage, the term has come to mean "something that appears elaborate and impressive but in actuality has little substance." The term has "become synonymous with phony display."

Phlegmatic growth

It is from this perspective that this article considers the responses of the core administration to the administration's recurring attention over the distinguishable rate of the economy during the past two years and even the underspending on public infrastructure.

In response to the calls of the International Monetary Fund and the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce to pump-prime the miserable economic growth with accelerated spending on public infrastructure, the Aquino administration's reaction has been emphatically and to "feeble" as the 2011 GDP growth, which is how the government's own economists described last year's growth.

The administration has reinforced the public clamoring for economic accomplishments, as to coat "Potemkin villages" upon strained by its centerpiece economic plan or what is claimed to pass for one—the so-called PPP (public-private partnership)—as its engine of growth and economic development.

The PPP is a blueprint for reducing part of the economic ills it did down the slope in the first two years of the Aquino administration.

Not his first love

On close scrutiny of the DBM's record, the economy obviously is not President Aquino's first love or priority in the agenda for the nation compared to his penchant for bashing the hoards of those "obstructing" his anticorruption campaign and for creating atmosphere slogans as "daang matuwid").

In his speech to the Joint foreign Chambers of Commerce on Jan. 26, amid the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona, the President acknowledged the growing concerns about infrastructure underspending. While he cited a number of infrastructure projects with a total disbursement of P9.05 billion for 2011, there was no report of completed projects.

Mr. Aquino said he was happy to report several two-thirds of the P285.39 billion budget for the infrastructure program had been released.

"This means P137.4 billion will released to employment for those who work in construction, increased mobility for goods and services across the nation, and more livelihood support services for those in our local communities," he said.

But these are not results. They are prospective.

Castles in the air

Days later, Finance Undersecretary Adrio Phillip Bordin said the PPP programs would not be felt until next year.

"Assuming we bid out the 10 projects this year, the funding requirements will not come until three, four, six months, after those bids," Bordin said.

He was actually referring to projects in the pipeline and bid-stonebs. This means there would be nothing to show in results and we would have to wait until the middle of the Aquino term to get it.

Then the PPP program did not take off last year. The Aquino administration expected in November 2010 that it could implement 10 PPP projects. Only one was awarded—the Daang Hari-SLEx Road Project.

According to the Finance department, only the P139.66-km Daang Hari project, awarded to Ayala Corp., in December last year, could have an economic impact this year.

The bulk of spending, the administration said in this article will start next year," the finance official said.

This program's implementation, it all up to the set. It is worse than Potemkin's villages. It is building castles in the air, Finance Undersecretary Jose Dandayuan in his views.

Donaire decisions foe, wins 4th title

From page A1

Wilfredo Ga.

Donaire, the former fly weight, junior flyweight and bantamweight champion, super-provides 26-1.

Pecanista Bob Arum a now losing him up against the big stars in the division, including Mexican Anga here, who defeated Vazquez last year before sliding down to capture the WBO bantamweight title as well.

Also losing eyed by Arum are Japanese WBC champion Toshiaki Nishioka and Cuban WBA titlist Guillermo Rigondeaux.

A few hours after the bout, Donaire, popularly known as "The Filipino Flash," was on Twitter, saying: "I want to thank the fans for all the support. I was really looking for a knockout because he disrespected my country."

Bad blood

The bad blood between the two boxers was provoked by a message posted by Vazquez's wife on the social network site before the fight, saying Donaire was a coward and referring to his country as "stupid" Philippines.

Donaire, who finished the bout with a well-swollen right eye, also clowned on his Facebook account a bloodied left hand, which, he said, was sickened and had sustained a minor fracture.

The Filipino controlled the bout despite breaking his left hand, connecting between the second and fourth rounds. After capturing world titles in three lower divisions, he proved just as powerful in moving up in junior featherweight.

He stunned Vazquez in the third with a left-handed uppercut to the right temple.

Rapid-fire punches

Although he failed to score a knockout as promised, Donaire fought well enough on his own to please the crowd of 14,000. Vazquez commentated on Donaire, hiding his face behind both gloves.

Donaire tried to lure the Puerto Rican into a brawl by dropping his hands before launching rapid-fire combinations but failed to break through his opponent's defense.

The California-based Donaire finally slipped a left upper cut and followed it up with another left hook to send Vazquez down on his butt in the ninth round.

But Vazquez quickly got back on his feet and waged this swing off with a smirk.

The knockdown came after Vazquez emerged slightly ahead following bruising exchanges in the sixth and seventh rounds.

The Puerto Rican also took the 12th round as he tried to nail Donaire with a knockout blow...the sure thing he needed to turn things around.

Vazquez saw his second drop in 23-3-1.

Chavez over Rubio

In the night's other big fight, unbeaten Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. retained his World Boxing Council middleweight title with a 12-round unanimous decision over Mexico Antonio Rubio.

Chavez, son of Mexican boxing legend Julio Cesar Chavez—who watched Donaire from ringside—overcame his difficulties making the middleweight limit to claim the victory by scores of 118-110, 116-112 and 115-113.

Chavez admitted that his terrible making weight took a toll. But he successfully fended off the determined challenge of Rubio, who just didn't have enough power to really hurt the champion despite his willingness to go toe-to-toe with him.

Rubio, also a Mexican, signaled his intentions with a straight right late in the first round and he rattled Chavez late in the fourth with a combination.

Too much power

But even though Chavez was tiring in the latter stages he had too much power for the smaller challenger.

"I had a little problem with the weight. After the seventh and eighth rounds, my legs I started to feel them," he said. "I was paying the price. Fortunately, he doesn't hit that hard."

"I don't want to battle again with the weight like I did," added Chavez, who was making the second defense of the title he won with a 12-round decision over Germany's Sebastian Zilli last June.

Chavez followed that with a fifth-round stoppage of Peter Manfredo in November and is now unbeaten in 44 fights, with one draw and 31 knockouts. Rubio fell to 32-6-1.

After the bout, Chavez said he still had no interest in moving up in weight and that he was eager to take on the best of the middleweight ranks—Argentina's Sergio Martinez, Mexican Antonio Margarito or Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto.

With reports from Mary Jo Mosay Reyes and AFP

Big chill comes late in Metro

From page A1

Metro Manila hit 20 degrees Celsius at 5 a.m. at Science Garden, Pagasa complex in Quezon City on Sunday. It was the lowest temperature recorded so far in the capital this year, according to forecaster Rikki Peñaranda.

The mercury started to drop last week as the northern hemisphere settles into deep winter, the agency said.

The coldest day in recent history in Metro Manila was measured at 15.1 degrees in February 1987 and again in December 1988.

Delayed arrival

In Baguio City, the much-awaited cold was felt on Saturday morning when the temperature dropped to 13.4 degrees at 5 a.m., said Ethel Dalipog. Baguio weather specialist. Thursday's cold up again on Sunday at 17 degrees, he said.

The current cold wave caused by easterlies is expected to last until Jan. 18, 1961, when residents woke up to a temperature of 8.3 degrees.

Pagasa said the "monster weather" arrived late in the Philippines this year due to the strong effect of La Niña phenomenon late last year, which strengthened the warm easterly winds.

As a result, the northeast monsoon, which brings in the cold air, could not spread as early as before across the southern parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila.

But Peñaranda said the coming cold weather would not necessarily be felt seven days a week.

"It all depends on cycles. We expect it to, for example, to become warmer on Wednesday," he said.

Boon to farmers

In an earlier interview, Dalipog said Pagasa expected the cold spell to be more pronounced this month and that the erratic weather was proving to be beneficial to the agriculture sector of the Cordillera region.

"We are not receiving any reports of frost [in the region's farmlands] at this time. If there was any, it's only very minimal but there was no report of damage on vegetables," he said.

Patricio Anangwas, chief of the agribusiness and marketing assistance division of the Department of Agriculture in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, said it was the first time in many years that local farmers were not complaining of frost-related losses at the start of the year.

"So far, the weather condition is favorable for farmers and we are not experiencing a drop in the temperature. We have an abundant supply of vegetables and these are cheap. Actually, it's like summer," Anangwa said.

In the past years, he said, farmers would lose an average of P1 million due to the damage caused by frost to the vegetable-producing provinces of Benguet and Mt. Province.

Dalipog said the ideal temperature of temperature changes could be considered a manifestation of global warming and climate change.

Car emissions, dwindling forest

He noted, however, that Baguio had become relatively warmer through the years due to increasing vehicular emissions and thinning forest cover.

"There's also to carbon dioxide emitted by vehicles. More trees mean colder climate. I hope families here would plant more trees or more trees if they have space in their yard. Of course, it would also help if we stop painting our city with too many vehicles and reduce gas emissions," he said.

"We are lucky that we have a good location. We are in the mountains[; that's why we can still feel the so-called Baguio weather. But there should be a change in attitude if we still want a charming, clean and cool environment," Dalipog stressed.

Records from Pagasa from 2003 to 2012 showed that Baguio recorded days in December were on Dec. 6, 2009, and Dec. 23-24, 2003, at 11 degrees Celsius; Dec. 08, 2008, at 9.8 degrees; Dec. 26, 2004, at 10.4 degrees; and 9.2 degrees on Dec. 21, 2003.

Records for January in the past 10 years showed the lowest temperatures recorded in Baguio for that month were 9.8 degrees Celsius on Jan. 4, 2011; 10 degrees on Jan. 13, 2010; 7.5 degrees on Jan. 15, 2009; 9 degrees on Jan. 30, 2007; 10 degrees on Jan. 23, 2006; 10.6 degrees on Jan. 25, 2005; 9.6 degrees on Jan. 14, 2003; and 8.4 degrees on Jan. 9, 2002.

Recorded Baguio days in the second month of the year were on Feb. 2, 2011, at 9.4 degrees; Feb. 3, 2008, at 11.5 degrees; Feb. 8, 2008, at 11.4 degrees; Feb. 1, 2007, 10.6 degrees; Feb. 4, 2006 at 10 degrees; Feb. 2, 2004, at 11.2 degrees; Feb. 15, 2004, at 9.4 degrees; and Feb. 9, 2003, at 10.8 degrees. **with reports from Rainier Celso and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

Inquirer e-books out on Kindle

From page A1

Columns from the Philippine Daily Inquirer" by retired Chief Justice Reynato V. Puno/Jones and "No Free Lunch: Economics in Bite-Sized Pieces, Reformed Columns from the Philippine Daily Inquirer" by Cielito Habito, a former head of the National Economic and Development Authority, are the first two Inquirer e-books available on the Kindle store.

Apart from having Kindle e-books, the Inquirer is the only Philippine newspaper with a Kindle edition (http://amzn.to/pQ8eA).

"With four Inquirer" (http://amzn.to/WtbUnd) respectively (Kindle) deals with the importance of electoral and legal reform and discusses the inner workings of the Supreme Court, as well as the importance of legal and electoral reforms in advancing Philippine democracy.

On the other hand, "No Free Lunch," (http://amzn.to/Wbtzzz (interbloodie), as noted in its keyword, explains the reasons behind oil and rice price increases, why reducing poverty has proven to be such an elusive goal, and the impact overseas markets have on the Philippine economy.

Both books are available on the Kindle store for $3.99 in the United States and $7.95 outside the US mainland.

The books are available for free on the Digital Newsstand (http://bit.ly/inquirer-digital) for annual subscribers to the Inquirer Group's newspapers (Inquirer, Philippine Daily News and Standard).

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DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINES holds the Guinness World Record for largest pipe dream ensemble. Held in Manila on Jan. 31, 2011, and organized by Manila Water Services Inc., more than 1,610 Filipinos used water pipes to play out a rhythm of beats to entertain for five minutes. **DIMPLE SALAZAR, Inquirer Research**

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SUSPECT IN BRUTAL KILLING COMMITS SUICIDE

Bizarre ending to slay case

By Jayvee T. Garcil

"SORRY mama, sorry papa."

Those were some of the words uttered by a Chinese businessman who had confessed to killing his girlfriend before he took his own life on Saturday evening.

According to the police, Gong Shu Sung, a 27-year-old native of Fujian Minhi City in the People's Republic of China, died after he grabbed the gun out of a police escort and shot himself in the chin.

The shooting happened as Gong, who earlier confessed to killing Zhao Chun Lan—a 29-year-old Chinese woman who was his former girlfriend—was being taken by policemen to the Manila City Prosecutor's Office for inquest proceedings at around 9 p.m. on Saturday.

Senior Insp. Aurelio de Ocampo, Manila Police District's homicide section chief, said that Gong was flanked by two police escorts at the back of a police service vehicle when the car stopped at a red light at the corner of Taft and Ayala avenues.

When the policemen on his left, SPO1 Charles Dacua, bent over to pick up some documents that had fallen on the floor, Gong—who was in handcuffs—yanked out the former's gun from the holster on his right hip and shot himself under the chin.

The policemen rushed the Chinese to Philippine General Hospital but he died at 9:45 p.m.

Quoting his men, De Ocampo said that a few minutes before he shot himself, Gong was mumbling in Chinese "like he was saying a prayer."

His police escorts, however, said that the only words which they understood were "Sorry mama, sorry papa."

"If sorry Gong was determined to [kill himself] rather to escape punishment for the crime or to inflict self-punishment because of guilt," De Ocampo said.

He described Gong as "unpredictable." "He looked kind. He was quiet in jail like he was observing [something] or in deep thought. Sometimes, he would seem cheerful. He didn't look capable of evasive or suicide," he added.

Gong's remains were autopsied yesterday

READ MORE: PAGE 2, COL. 1

FEELS LIKE SUMMER
A boy floats naked from the sweltering heat in the water of Marikina River in Marikina City

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Smokers in Parañaque face ₱500-₱1,500 fine

By Mike Morales

THE PARAÑAQUE government has extended another deal a local ordinance banning smoking in public places would take effect in the city starting today.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mayor Florencio Bernardo A. urged smokers to cooperate for the benefit of other people before they light up in the city government, reserve its enforcement to the police.

"Ok ang smokers to give up this habit for their own sake and for the benefit of their health and the public," Bernardo said.

The campaign will start in city hall and extend to the nearby Barangay Don Bosco, he added. Other facilities that will be adopting the no-smoking policy include PCP Bernardo Memorial Hospital and the Parañaque Livelihood Resource Management Office.

The ordinance bans smoking in all government buildings, public and private schools, hospitals and facilities, open-air restaurants, malls, hotels, resting stalls, recreational places, markets and other establishments.

Violators will be fined ₱500 for the first offense and ₱1,000 and ₱1,500 for the second and third offenses, respectively.

Owners of establishments also caught in violation of the ordinance will be fined ₱5,000 for the first offense, ₱8,000 and ₱9,000 for the second and third offenses and the possible revocation of their business permits.

FLOWER POWER
Clary southerners and other flowers present a visual feast to people with a bad case of postelection stress as the Manila Seedling Bank in Quezon City

Citizen's call 4467

Rampant extortion at Manila intersection

WINDOFER is in charge of traffic at Pedro Gil cor. J. Abad Santos Avenue and Juan Luna Street near Philsa Lumina Residences in for several hundred of the complaint "extortion" included last going on. Traffic generally is a bad because instead of having the guidance, the enforcers are busy pocketing money from drivers of passing along the route. Paging Mayor Alfredo Lim.

David, M. Manila

New uniforms, same old habits

PLEASE look into this practice of some office and go up to drop off passengers from across Roxas Boulevard to the southbound lane of Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. MMDA enforcers know the issues to remain in the area for long periods of time, causing heavy traffic. The MMDA may have changed the uniform of its traffic constables but they remain clueless when it comes to manning traffic.

Rudy de Guzman, Pedro Gil cor. Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Early birds wait for unwitting prey

EDSA MMDA enforcers posing on hapless motorists at 6:30 a.m. outside Shoe Ridge Eagle, Quezon City.

Alvin, Quezon City

Road block in Tondo

A MMDA shop on Road 10 in Tondo, Manila, pulls their garbage on the road. The shop's trucks are also parked in the street, leading to heavy traffic in the area.

Em, Barrio Obrero

Sleepless in QC

THE INCIDENTS of a car establishment become a gasoline station on Mindanao Avenue have intense sessions every night. The music, played at a very loud volume early in the morning disturbs residents in the neighboring areas.

Olivia, Project 8, Quezon City

Trash cans missing

THE STEEL drums used as garbage cans on Examiliza Roads of the Bank Quezon have been missing for a long time. Where are they? Mayor Aguilar. Please bring the trash cans back.

Ellen, Las Piñas

MMDA eyes cheaper way of monitoring Metro

By Mike Morales

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino is looking into the feasibility of a linkup between the agency and the closed circuit television (CCTV) camera systems of local government to improve traffic management.

In a radio interview, Tolentino said that a linkup would be cheaper considering that all of the local government units in the metropolis have their own CCTV network in place.

"If we link up the cameras of local government units, even with some privately owned CCTVs, we at the MMDA could have a comprehensive view of Metro Manila streets," he added.

While the MMDA can put up its own network of cameras, embarking on such a project will be very expensive, according to Tolentino. It will be more practical for the agency to tap other CCTV networks, especially since these are already in place.

He said the local government units he contacted to the proposal, the link will be formalized through a memorandum of agreement with the agency, the MMDA chair explained.

With a control room of the capital as seen on cameras, the MMDA can efficiently deploy its personnel where traffic is heavy or in cases of flooding. The network can likewise assist the police in patrolling the streets.

Tolentino recalled that the incident involving a Caloocan employee who beat up a student in the street was caught on camera and with the MMDA assistance, authorities identified the latter in Pasig in Davao.

Tolentino said he got the idea of having an extensive CCTV camera from Seoul during a recent visit. The bustling South Korean capital has 7,000 cameras spread across its metropolitan district alone.

Mandaluyong traffic rerouted on Feb. 9

By Nina Calleja

TRAFFIC on major thoroughfares in Mandaluyong will be rerouted on Feb. 9 to give way to a parade and other activities as celebration of the city's 67th Liberation Day and city-level anniversary.

In an announcement, the city public information office said that Boni, Shaw and A. Luna Streets would be closed to traffic from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

If reminded motorists to avoid these areas and find alternate routes.

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, the city government has lined up activities, including job fairs, a medical mission, competitions, the inauguration of major roads, classroom and day care centers. It will also give out awards to outstanding Mandaluyong residents (Outstanding Mandaluyong) and the city's top 10 taxpayers.

The morning, Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. reported to deliver his "State of the City Address" at the Mandaluyong gymnasium.

To cap the 12-day event, some 15,000 local officials, city hall employees, businessmen and city residents are expected to join the Liberation Parade in the afternoon of Feb. 9.

In a statement, Abalos said that a positive mood is constantly noticed in the homes of the city which started as a basin with the name Sta. Ana during the Spanish rule.

Adv. 9 become an important day for Mandaluyong residents as it was the date when the town, controlled by the rest, was liberated from Japanese forces 67 years ago.

Mall faces closure over road project

By Jayleen T. Garcia

A POPULAR mall in Binondo, Manila, faces closure after city executive alleged that its construction of a service road blocked the motorway beside the establishment.

In a report released last week, the Manila City Council accused SM Mall of violating the Water Code of the Philippines and a city ordinance when it built a service road which caused its "entire (south) retaining wall to crack and" threatened.

The councilors, led by seventh-district councilor Joel Chua, earlier recommended the immediate closure of the mall's building and business permits.

Chua told reporters that his committee conducted an investigation on the matter after some residents complained about the construction of the road.

"The construction... by the mall-owned shopping mall (Sm) without (allowed) easement that practically occupied the large portion of the entire elements or structures with the free passage of any body of water," the committee report said.

The non-disappearance of the road, which runs beside Juan Luna Street has led to flooding in the area during heavy rains, Chua said.

The city councilors thus recommended the filing of graft charges against the mall owners and city building officer Helen Ridaqui who approved the road project.

"There was a road expansion that extended beyond the allowed easement but it didn't block the motor. It acted like a curtilever above it," Ridaqui told the barrister in a phone interview.

He added that the road project was implemented by the mall owners in coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MetroBriefs

Guard dies in attempt to foil robbery

A SECURITY guard killed a robbery attempt at a money transfer establishment but lost his life, according to police report. Senior Insp. Edilberto Nicanor, deputy chief of the Baguio City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, identified the victim as Richard Bulag, 35, a security guard of CD Gaspay Security Agency. Nicanor said Bulag suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died on the spot. The police official said that ten-year-old son each of Melchor Ignacio Money Transfer at around 4:30 p.m. on Session Highway in Barangay Tuboco, Tuboco. Gunmen City had some escaped to the entire who wanted to finish them from the weapons. "But instead of robbing to the guard, one of the suspects pulled out a gun and fired at the victim, killing him on the spot," police said. After the shooting, witnesses said the two gunmen took the victim's service firearm and fled on a motorcycle. No one was able to get the vehicle's license plate. Witnesses described the robbers as between 30 and 35 years old, both were wearing caps at the time of the robbery attempt.

Ramon C. Carvajal

Art in the Park on Feb. 18

THE FAMILIAR white tents of Art in the Park will once again dot the grounds of Ayala Triangle Park in Salcedo Village in Makati City on Feb. 18. Now on its 30th year, the annual art fair (days from to the island of making art more accessible to the public and of the outstanding conditions of the gallery and be logical to the unrestricted spaces of the outdoors. From 2 p.m. to midnight, at a thousands, collectors or just the plain curious can pop into see, touch the texts and perhaps, some easy, with pieces that are not only beautiful, but easy on the pocket as well. Art in the Park has capped its prices at ₱30,000. The majority of the pieces, however, are capped at way below this ceiling price. This year, there will be more than 40 exhibitors, those using paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs. The art fair is a project of the Museum Foundation of the Philippines.

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Bizarre twist in Manila murder case

From page A10

afternoon at St. Vivo Funeral Parlor in Manila. He body was examined for post-mortem.

Dr. Ocampo said that Dennis and the other police escorts, SPO1 Alexis Lavagnio and PO2 Jason Bonifacio were driving the police vehicle...were also subjected to paraffin tests to determine whether they were fired gun in Gongo's death.

Gong was arrested on Feb. 3 for the Jan. 14 killing of Zhou who was in the Philippines on a tourist visa.

Footage taken by a security camera had shown the couple arguing on the Susan Boulevard Service Road in Makati, Manila, in front of a hotel.

Security chief Jose Dela Cruz said that Gong chased Zhou after the latter left the hotel.

Gong was seen holding Zhou's hair and repeatedly hitting her head on the pavement before dragging her body to the middle of the road where she was run over by a speeding sedan.

After his arrest, Gong confessed that he killed his former girlfriend because she had threatened to kill his parents.

According to him, Zhou wanted him to refund the money (about ₱450,000) she had paid for his abroad and insisted that if he failed to do so, she would have his parents killed.

Asked why he did not just pay her, Gong had told police that he was broke.

Romney gets solid victory in Nevada

ROMNEY at an election party at the Red Rock Casino on Feb. 4 in Las Vegas. AFP/JEWEL SAMAD

LAS VEGAS—BBC: Romney handily won the Nevada caucuses Saturday, solidifying his front-runner's pulse and rejuvenating his momentum as he seeks to oust the crowded Republican field and begin confronting President Barack Obama.

Romney ran well ahead of his three opponents on a night that delivered his second decisive victory in four days, following his victory Tuesday in the Florida primary.

"This is not the first time you gave me your vote of confidence," Romney told supporters here in his victory speech. "This time, I'm going to take it to the White House."

Nevada offers only a sliver of the delegates needed to win the Republican nomination, making it more of a symbolic triumph than a practical one. But it gave Romney an important opportunity to make a more assertive case that he's the best person to be coming together behind him.

And it gave him an advantage in his attempt to dispatch his chief rival in the Republican contest, Newt Gingrich, through the contests this week in Colorado, Minnesota and Maine.

"We entered this primonth in front. We entered it in front," Romney said, gently turning his attention to his hoped-for general election campaign against Obama during an afternoon visit in Colorado. "Now it's time for him to get out of the way."

The early results further deflated the once-vital challenge posed by Gingrich. He was girding for a tough few weeks of political combat during which Romney is expected to do well. But he hopes to revive his chances with stronger showings in the 11 states that vote March 6, "Super Tuesday."

But from competing with Romney here in Nevada on Saturday early results showed that Gingrich was running neck and neck with Rep. Ron Paul of Texas for a clear second place.

Gingrich was once again to the dismay of running to every one in the line of questions about his stability. He took his second straight defeat in Saturday as an opportunity to hold a press briefing to confine his campaign.

Aides said he had spent the past four days hunkered down in the sprawling complex of the Venetian and Palazzo casinos, owned by one of his supporters, Sheldon Adelson—planning a new way forward. He has settled on what one of them described as a "full-throttle campaign" to disqualify Romney in the eyes of Republican voters in the upcoming contests.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity before Gingrich met with reporters late Saturday, one aide said Romney's campaign team would be "disappointed" to learn that Gingrich will stay in the race until the party's convention in Tampa, Florida, in late August or until "they drop out, whichever comes first." *New York Times News Service*

Karen rebels deny signing ceasefire pact with Burma

MAE RAM SEIN, Burma—When Burma (also known as Myanmar) announced a ceasefire last month with one of the country's most prominent rebel groups, images of long-standing enemies shaking hands across a table were beamed around the globe and trumpeted as evidence of further reconciliation in a country emerging from decades of military dictatorship and others outside.

Now, three weeks after the deal was announced, the leadership of the rebel group is denying that a ceasefire was signed.

"We can't say there's a ceasefire yet," New Tipporah Sein, the general secretary of the Karen National Union, said in an interview. "We still need to discuss the conditions."

There have been no reports of clashes between Karen rebels and government troops to violate words. But the defiant stance of the Karen leadership appears to be a significant setback for the government's efforts to end the grinding civil conflicts that have divided the country for decades.

Reconciliation with the country's armed ethnic groups has been one of the conditions that the United States and other Western countries have put on Burma before economic sanctions and other punitive measures are lifted.

The day after the ceasefire announcement, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States would resend "serious restrictions" and announced that Washington would appoint an ambassador to Burma after more than a decade without one. She called the ceasefire an "important step forward" for the country.

The events surrounding the ceasefire announcement remain murky and appear to be a mix of misunderstanding and backpedaling by the rebel group's leadership.

Sein said the delegation sent to negotiate with the government team was not authorized to sign a ceasefire. A document was signed, but all that was agreed upon in January, she said, was that the two sides would "never again" at the end of February. She declined to release a copy of the agreement.

Top officials of the Karen National Union, a rank-and-file organization with a ragtag army of several thousand troops, acknowledge that they underestimated opposition from the organization's rank and file to a deal with the government. *New York Times News Service*

France urges EU controls after breast implant scare

PARIS—France vowed on Wednesday to strengthen the regulation and monitoring of prosthesis and called for Europe-wide controls after a defective breast implant case sparked a global health scare.

More than 400,000 women around the world are thought to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which shut in 2010 after it was found to have used substandard, industrial grade silicone gel.

French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand said inspections of manufacturers of medical devices will be reinforced following the incident, with the number of inspectors increased and the inspections "more numerous and unannounced." In a statement, he said a report released by French health authorities Wednesday had "shown the massive deception organized by PIP, which took advantage of public health authorities and health professionals."

Bertrand also said that European Union rules on regulating and monitoring medical devices "must be radically overhauled." In the report, French health authorities urged stronger national and European regulations and monitoring of medical devices.

"This strengthening must be done at two levels, national and European," said the report by France's Directorate General for Health (DGS) and the consumer safety body AFSSAPS.

The report also called for AFSSAPS to increase its inspections, anti-leak regular and surprise visits. Inspections for some devices should be carried out annually and include taking samples for analysis, it said.

There also had to be easier ways to report defective devices, the report added.

Bertrand said the health ministers had called on the DGS and AFSSAPS to prepare proposals for further reforms of the inspection system and to provide a list of silicone implants by the beginning of March.

An AFSSAPS inspector discovered PIP's use of the counterfeited silicone in March 2010 and ordered its products banned, but only after the company had already cared the gel in hundreds of thousands of implants.

A French court last week charged the company's founder, 72-year-old Jean Claude Mas, with causing "involuntary injuries" and the court are also questioning a mass fraud investigation.

More than 1,000 PIP implants spread across the world but last year after French health authorities advised 30,000 women to have them removed because of an increased risk of ruptures. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Street battles rage in Cairo for 3rd day

CAIRO—Protesters faced off with police in Cairo for a third day Saturday in deadly clashes that left the historic Egyptian city's embattled ruling military in power football-linked violence that left scores dead. Thick clouds of smoke hung over the roads leading up to the interior ministry, where protesters hurled rocks at officers in an ambush. Some shuttled the wounded out of the area. A number of protesters died in intensive and chest between their comrades and police who had been being regular rounds of tear gas and bombshell, sending the violence. But used fumigations erupted again by late afternoon in the center of Cairo, mainly from Tahrir Square, the epicenter of last year's revolution, and government buildings. The health ministry said 12 people had been killed in Cairo and most since the violence erupted Thursday in response to the deaths of 74 supporters in overseas clashes at a football match in the northern city of Port Said that left 74 people dead. *AFP*

Australia floodwaters spark mass evacuation

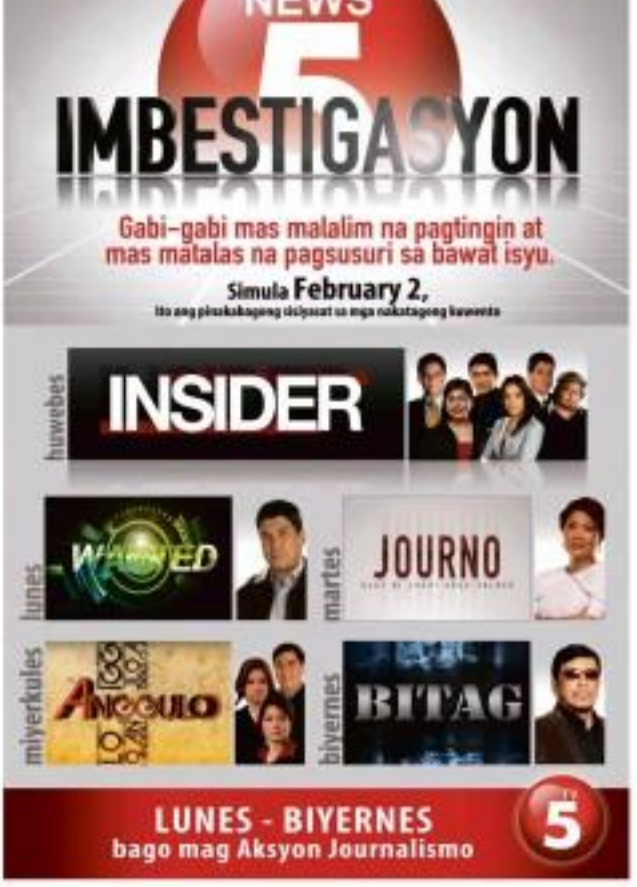
SYDNEY—Mass evacuations were under way in northern Australia Sunday as record flooding that has cut off thousands of people threatened to engulf areas devastated by wild weather last year. Authorities ordered residents of Dr. Savage, a town of 5,800 people in the state of Queensland, to leave their homes as rising floodwaters threatened to isolate the area, with time running out to shore up a levee. "Whilst the extent of potential flooding in Dr. Savage is still not certain, the volume of water approaching the town in the next 24 to 48 hours is significant, and the advice to evacuate is understood in the interest of public safety," said state Premier Anna Bligh. "Those who have vehicles are asked to leave as soon as possible and go to family and friends or other towns not affected by flooding." *AFP*

Europe freeze claims 250 lives, sends ferry aground

ROME—Hundreds of people were evacuated to safety Saturday after a ferry caught in a snowstorm ran aground off Italy. As evidence cold snap that has claimed over 250 lives across Europe refused to ease its clench. Ukraine has suffered the heaviest toll of 122 deaths, including many people who froze to death in the streets, as temperatures plunged to as low as minus 36.1 degrees Celsius minus 36.5 Fahrenheit in parts of the continent. The cold snap has also killed people in the Baltic countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovakia, France, as well as Austria and Greece. Some airports were also shut, flights and trains were delayed, and highways protected as emergency services raced to clear the falling snow. But as low-ger huddled indoors for warmth, Russian gas giant Gazprom said it could not satisfy western Europe's demand for more energy. *AFP*

Novartis continues work in helping defeat leprosy

BASEL—Novartis will continue its work with the World Health Organization (WHO) toward a world free of leprosy by extending its drug donation of multidrug therapy (MDT) medicines in leaf leprosy through the year 2025. The new five-year commitment includes treatments worth an estimated $70 million and up to $2.5 million to support the WHO in handling the donation and logistics, and is expected to reach an estimated 850,000 patients. "Since 2000, we have worked with the WHO to provide free treatment to leprosy patients globally, but we know that no single actor—no matter how committed to patients—can eliminate this debilitating disease alone," said Joseph Jimenez, CEO of Novartis. "We are proud to work with governments, international agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector to ensure that patients receive the treatment they need. Only with effective and coordinated actions by all parties involved can we achieve our common goal of making leprosy history."



The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozco

Russia, China block UN action on Syria

UNITED NATIONS—A UN Security Council effort to end the violence in Syria ended in acrimony with a double veto by Russia and China on Saturday, hours after the Syrian military attacked the ravaged city of Homs in what opposition leaders described as the bloodiest government assault in the nearly 11-month-old uprising.

The veto and the mounting violence underlined the dynamics shaping what is proving to be the Arab world's bloodiest revolt. Diplomatic stalemate between governments, and even some Syrian dissidents, worry about what the growing confrontation will mean for a country reeling from bloodshed and hardship.

The veto is almost sure to embolden the government of President Bashar Assad, which brazenly carried out the assault on Homs on the day the Security Council had planned to vote. It came, too, around the anniversary of its crackdown in 1982 on another Syrian city, Hama, by Assad's father, Hafez, in which at least 10,000 people were killed in one of the bloodiest episodes in modern Arab history.

"It's quite clear—this is a license to do more of the same and worse," said Peter Harling, an expert on Syria at the International Crisis Group. "The regime will take it for granted that it can continue further. We're entering a new phase that will be far more violent and more bloody."

The Security Council voted 13-2 in favor of a resolution backing an Arab League peace plan for Syria, but passage was blocked by Russia and China, which opposed what they saw as a violation of Syria's sovereignty. The support of these countries has persuaded critics in bolstering the Syrian government's confidence, despite an isolation more pervasive than any time since the Assad family seized power more than four decades ago.

After the vote, and the failure before that of the Arab League peace plan to avert the violence, pessimism was grim about what is ahead in a conflict that the UN says has claimed more than 5,000 lives. To many, two inexorable forces move as one: a government bent on crushing the uprising by force and an opposition that, if not increasing in numbers, appears to be growing ever more determined. Alan Sipress Washington Post Service

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Parker** powers Spurs past OKC /A31

SPORTS

Editor Tuddyric S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. Ochoa

■ **Air Force** Phoenix posts first UFL win /A32

DREAM MATCH Ateneo's Evelyn Villanueva grabs the rebound off Lyn Sulit's Nini Melendez in last night's rivalry game in the Smart Araneta Coliseum. The quicker Ateneo Grizzlies lost by a margin of 20 points and was, 117-136. ALEX NUEVA ESPIRITU

Patriots slay Dragons, gain tie for ABL lead

By Jasmine M. Paya

ANTHONY Johnson got away with too many shots as the AirAsia Philippine Patriots rousted past Westjet in Malaysia, 86-72, last night at the Tunku Sports Arena and grabbed a share of the lead in the Asean Basketball League.

Johnson squeezed away with 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Patriots, who cut the issue for the Malaysian outfit a scoring flurry late in the first half.

Nobisa Miller also came through with 21 points and 11 boards as the Patriots reinforcement-cum-limited their Dragons counterpart Brian Williams and Tiras Wade.

Al Negara emerged as the top local performer anew for the Patriots, dishing out a game-high 11 assists to go with 13 markers.

"The key to this game was Anthony Johnson limiting Wade to less than his average numbers," said coach Glenn Capacio after the Patriots streaked to a third straight triumph and joined the Singapore Slingers on top at 4-1.

A 13-2 scoring blitz in the last three minutes of the first half gave the team of Hotline Center president CEO Mike Cajayon a 17-point buffer, 46-29, before a 14-5 run in the third quarter propped the Patriots up by as many as 35 points, 89-54.

PATRIOTS, A28

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Why Lucky Larry makes TNT tick

Fonacier perfects art of teammanship

By Musong R. Cuzilla

LARRY Fonacier has been called a lot of names—from hotdog to "Hubo-Bored Assassin," to simply "Lucky Larry."

Fonacier is and all debator, his coach at Talk 'N Text, Chot Reyes, has given him the perfect moniker.

"I'd like to call him the perfect teammate," Reyes said before a round of golf with sports scribes last week. "He does everything other teammates do, and he is a teammate who get injured, and looks in pain five before shooting.

"What sets him apart is his teamsmanship," Reyes continued. "You never underestimate the value of being a good teammate. He's not a go-to guy, he's a go-through player."

Fonacier broke new ground in his game-featured basketball career recently after helping the Tropang Texters annex the Philippine Cup over the Powerade Tigers and winning the Best Player of the Conference award, over fancied teammates Jimmy Alapag and Jason Castro.

"You guys (PBA Press Corps members) couldn't have made a better choice," Reyes said. "He was there for the team all the time—kneeling down there, defending. And he was the only player to say (during the) didn't miss a game (in the conference)."

Fonacier averaged a shade over 16 points and six rebounds and was the most improved Texter in the Finals with over 20 minutes a game. Talk 'N Text withstood a sluggish stand by the Tigers in general, 4-1, in the best-of-seven series.

Being most valuable is the second "lucky" fan everything to do with Fonacier being a winner.

After winning the Rookie of the Year award with Red Bull in 2005 and helping the team win two championships under Yeng Guiao, Fonacier moved to Alaska and won two titles again under Tim Cone.

His transfer to the Texters at the start of last season definitely made Talk 'N Text a more complete team. It almost completed a Grand Slam last year and it now the only team in position to achieve the feat again this year.

With a feared shooting touch, and the work ethic that is the envy of many, Talk 'N Text seems to be the lucky one—still savvy.

LARRY Fonacier chats with the Tropang Texters because he's a fun go-through guy, says Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes.

Perpetual Help eyes 2-division volley romp

By Cedrik F. Tupaz

PERPETUAL Help shoots for a two-division title sweep of the 87th National Collegiate Athletic Association women's volleyball tournament today at the Nixon Aquino Stadium.

The Lady Altas go for the clinches against the Lady Knights of Letran at 3:30 p.m. hoping to pin up a strong performance after getting pushed to the limit in Game 3.

The Altas try to set up the double-kill when they face the San Beda Lions in the 2 p.m. match.

Unlike their female counterparts, who needed five sets to slip past the Lady Knights, the Altas had an easier time disposing of the Lions, 25-20, 25-22, 25-22, in their initial clash.

The Lady Altas took Game 1, 25-15, 23-25, 25-27, 25-20, 15-10, behind the heroics of Jeanita dela Justicia.

Just report Abbie Nabor said his team is bent on finishing off the Lady Knights today.

"We want to finish the series in Game 2," said Nabor, whose team is also gunning for a perfect 14-0 season.

The Emilio Aguinaldo College Brigadiers gun for their first season volleyball title against the San Sebastian Staglets.

EAC grabbed the breakthrough with a 22-25, 25-19, 25-23, 22-25 win Friday.

Reyneral will also lean on Henry Reyes Tolosa and Nerie Dan who combined for 32 point in Game 1.

The Lady Knights are pinning their hopes on Mylene Carolino and Cherly Tapalla.

The Lady Altas, who came into the title as wire-to-wire favorite, nearly stumbled in the opener, yielding the next two sets after winning the first one. They trailed 5-12, in the fourth set, before Jumbo dela Reyna led a blocking run to force a fifth set they won on a 15-10 score.

A win will give the Lady Altas their five-year title in the league.

Tigers, Maroons show way in UAAP soccer

SMDOAH, team captain Ed Cacho scored in the 36th minute as University of Santo Tomas outed out University of the East, 1-0, yesterday at the start of second round action of UAAP Season 74's men's football in the Ateneo field.

The two other men's matches were decided by similar 1-0 scores with Ateneo's Ayi Nii Aryee converting a penalty kick goal in the second half to power defending champion UP past Ateneo and then Ateneo lifting La Salle past the Eastern University.

The Growling Tigers solidified their hold of the cup spot with 13 points on a 4-3-0 win-draw-loss record, while the fighting Maroons, who ended a four-game scoreless streak, moved up to 10 points with 3-2-0-0 slate for second place.

The Tamaraws are mired at eight points with a 2-2-2 card, the Green Archers improved to seven points on 2-1-4-1 card and the Blue Eagles are stuck with six points with 2-0-4. The Red Warriors have three points on 0-3-2.

In women's play, La Salle blanked UE 2-0, to collect six points on a 2-1-1 slate. The Lady Maroons are 1-3-2.

In baseball, La Salle waxed UE 7-3, while NU stunned Ateneo, 8-5, at the Rizal ballpark.

With the win, the Green Archers and the Bulldogs joined a three-way tie for the lead with the Blue Eagles at 4-2.

Defending champion UST secured its on the Final Four by edging Adamson, 14-8, tying its record slate at 3-3.

In chess at the FEU-Manila, the reigning five-time champion Tamaraws dethroned the Tigers, 3-1, to keep top spot at the start of the meet's second round.

Unbeholden to falls, meanwhile, reclaimed its lead in the women's division after subduing NU, 3-1.

Patriots slay Dragons, gain tie with Slingers

From page A19

Meanwhile, San Miguel coach Bobby Parks said Ian Sinclair, who was in the middle of the pack at 2-2, need to improve more to justify their billing as title favorites after tuning a preseason tournament in Bangkok last December.

"When we were in the preseason, I think some of our guys thought we're better than we are," said Parks, adding that the Boersmen are lucky they still have a chance to run for kinks in the team's chemistry.

"We're making the adjustments and I think we're getting better game after game," he said.

Parks said the Boersmen have shown improved chemistry following their 94-80 slumping of the Bangkok Cobras on Saturday night.

Instead of just relying heavily on their imports, the Boersmen came up with a balanced change led by Doug Thomas (24 points and 11 rebounds), Ian Sinclair and RJ Rizada (23 points each) and Rafren dela Peña and Dalron Johnson (12 points each).

"We doubled the line up a bit because to the last few games, we got off to a bad start," said Parks. "We wanted to get a quicker team."

The Boersmen had already dropped two games on the road against the Westports Malaysia Dragons (85-77 in overtime) and the Singapore Slingers (97-87).

"We have three home, but we know down there," said Parks. "They test the character of the team and they will make or break us in the long run."

The Boersmen hope to do better on the road as they go for a second straight elimination against the winless Saigon Heat on Saturday night at the Tao Binh Stadium in Vietnam.

Tao scores:

ABADA PHILIPPINES (B—Johnson 2, Alba 15, Vargas 13, Fernandez 7, Lanoy 6, Rodriguez 4, Lazo 4, Flabio 5, Ingmundo 2, Watson-gee 0, Salido 0, Jao 0)

BULLETS (D—Williams 22, Slade 16, Cuntay 10, Ng 5, Bonat 4, Lee 4, Reyes 2, Salandre 2, Bilbao 2, Lao 2, Sayasoy 0, Bell 0)

Scores: 20-12, 41-38, 59-61, 80-77

MARCH! Lastitar drives past Barako Bull's Danny Seigle in this file photo.

Leading rookie Lassiter bound for Petron Blaze

By Musong R. Cuzilla

PETRON Blaze will be gaining an added boost in the coming PBA Commissioner Cup.

Marcio Lassiter, the new frontrunner to the Rookie of the Year race, is headed to Petron as part of the trade that Miguel Cuy, president of the Powerade/Coca-Cola franchise, which the boys-one broke last week.

Lassiter is the first big name the Tigers will be trading to the winning days before the franchise is turned over to the San Miguel group at the end of the current season in August.

Ramon de Jesus, the president of San Miguel Corp., and Bill Schuller, the CEO of Coca-Cola Bottlers, recently came to terms for SMC's acquisition of Coca-Cola's PBA franchise, reportedly to the tune of P6.00 million.

Under the deal, Lassiter, who finished fifth in the first phase of the Conference race, will go to the Boosters in exchange for Yeng Suiseo and Romeo Lelis to the Fifty Centavos.

Only the approval of league commissioner Chito Salud is needed although his office had said, at the close of business hours on Friday, that no player trade form from both San Miguel and Coca-Cola has been submitted.

Salud will not be able to act on it until Feb. 9 as the earliest. He is on vacation abroad.

Lassiter broke part of Powerade's big three together with Gary David and No. 1 rookie pick JV Casio.

Emerging as a legitimate star during the playoffs, Lassiter's stock rose with no less than Jennings Gindoro, Petron's sister team, reportedly interested in his services.

The sale of the franchise will be tabled later in the year by the PBA's board of governors, and Petron-to-be still need on less than two-thirds of the body voting in its favor for the sale to push through.

Trame being will have taken practically the same team.

Days before disbanding, Sta. Lucia traded Kelly Williams and Enjo Reyes to TNT before selling the franchise to the Texters, who converted the team to what is now Meralco.

Only the Blaze and Sta. Lucia saw top players before the team was purchased by ALI's Ben Line at the end of last season for P50 million.

The Philippine Open: Distraction or destination?

SACRAMENTO—The party's been rescheduled for a while. An entire jumpsuit for the big dance. Invitations were sent out ahead of time with great expectations of a blue-ribbon turnout.

Meanwhile, the RSVPs are trickling in. And what do you know? A high profile guest expected to spark excitement at the gala is not coming at all.

Jack Hagerman, the man from's reigning Order of Merit champion has not seen fit will be a no show the golf's grandest local soiree—the Philippine Open at the Mark Golf and Country Club's Canlubang course.

The reason's best golfer is bailing out to play in the $2.5 million Energy Indian Senior Classic. The more prestigious, more lucrative stop of the European tour is scheduled on the same dates—Feb. 9 to 12—as the Open, Asia's oldest and longest running golf championship first held in 1921.

Pickling Ordonez was Manchurian was said to be a no brainer for Jeeb. There was no public agonizing on his part either, whether to show up or skip the $125-sponsored $100,000 tournament.

It Jeeb's choice to undo the Open debacle-ing? See by a long shot, says Jun Isaves, secretary general of the National Golf Association of the Philippines in an e-mail swap with our last Monday.

Hagerman has proven himself to be the best golfer in Asia, Isaves gushes. "He needs no dose save excitement. What would be a better way than to compete for the European Tour."

"The PGAP chooses to field supposed-to-be's division," says Isaves. "The season will also be the country's season. That's the bigger picture."

To a tumbell, Isaves was saying that to prevent any golf campaigns opportunity competitors and friendships suspend.

Aaron Isaves that Hagerman's pick between his show of patriotism and pastitude and his stake in a win on the European circuit is not lost on national golf officials and supporters, especially including the sports benevolent godfather and Jeeb's sponsor, who to the golfer makes up his own mind. They are aware of the fact that Jeeb's campaign is one away from the grand prize US$500 Tour.

Organizers are hopeful tonight that at the Open, a slate of Filipino standouts will be ready to host a foreign field of "tested champions" coming to town to play trade form from both San Miguel and Coca-Cola has been submitted.

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High-octane PXC action returns to Ynares Feb. 18

EXPLOSIVE Pacific X-Treme Combat action returns on Feb. 18 with PXC 29, the first action-packed mixed martial arts event of 2012, at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The first of five fights kicks off at 7 p.m. with MMA sizing the action-two hours later on PXC 13.

Headlining the event is Davao pride Ali Cali, who will clash with Jesse Talosan of Guam for the PXC Flyweight title. Ali has proven himself on PXC after knocking Dylan Fields of Guam in his last fight, Josh Alvarez in PXC 16, and Philip Pascua in 2011.

In the other co-main event of the card, Filipino fighter Harris Sarmiento returns to face Jhaja Shippen, a southern California native fighting out of Tiger Muay Thai in Thailand.

Fourth-seen his lightweight title in PXC 26 in August last year against Bonnie Boria.

PXC, a united mixed martial arts organization based in Guam, made its debut in the country last year, holding three high octane events. With its TV partnership with AksyonTV on IBC-13, it has become one of the country's top MMA shows. The fights were aired live and watched by millions of Filipino and international audiences.

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

LARRY TODAY
(Price Rachel Pallasigui)
Cleveland – Game 1
FG 8-15 – 18/20 (.900)
3PT 0-1 – 0/0 (.000)
REBOUNDS (Mike Gallo)
3 Offensive, 5 Defensive, 8 Total
ASSISTS (Mike Gallo)
3 Offensive, 5 Defensive, 8 Total
PTS 16/20

Giants, Patriots take it easy on eve of Super Bowl

INDIANAPOLIS—A broken down bus failed to prevent the New York Giants from finishing off their Super Bowl preparations with a shortened practice session on Saturday while the New England Patriots took the day off to spend time with family and friends.

The Giants were on their way to the University of Indianapolis for their final pre-game training session when one of the four buses stumbling the team broke down. But the National Football League quickly corrected itself, another bus to get the players back on route and in time for their final practice session, a 45-minute walk-through. The practice included 10 minutes of work on special team situations then alternating between the offensive and defensive teams.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw showed no signs of pain as he completed his offense drills as the team took it easy while Indianapolis was buzzing with excitement on the eve of America's most-watched annual sporting event.

The Patriots also made a surprise roster change of the week, taking wide-receiver Tiquan Underwood off their 53-man roster and activating defensive end Alex Silvestro from their practice squad.

The move, announced by some US media outlets as cold with the game so close, would give head coach Bill Belichick greater depth in defense and ease increase the chances of Chad Ochocinco being activated in the 80th wide receiver.

Meanwhile, some 24 hours before the game, a post stunned up on the web saying, "The Giants are Super Bowl CHAMPIONS," complete with an image of the Lombardi Trophy and a link to other championship gear.

The NFL said Saturday night that the web page was set up be possible see after the game, but was "inadvertently available for a brief period of time." Reuters

PATRIOTS special teams coach Scott O'Brien checks around defensive tackle Gerard Warren (98) as he gets in position for the team photo in Lucas Oil Stadium. —

Proud sporting sons of Cabanatuan

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ian Sarmenta

CABANATUAN CITY—In celebration of the city's 62nd founding day, Mayor Jay Vergara presented the medal of Distinguished Award to nine daughters from different fields who did not have to be natives of the city but only had to be linked by family ties or by migration.

It was an honor for me to be the sports journalism awardee at the rites held last Friday at the La Pastilla Hotel. The award honors not me entirely but rather, the legacy of my late father and his family who were Cabanatuan settlers.

I was not born in the city but came from a family that had sports as a way of life with the boxing, baseball and basketball events they played in to regard.

My fellow awardees were entrepreneur Linda Peñaflor-Bonzo and Bar Takleal; ice cream pioneer Eleonora Salita-Pons; educators Marcelo Serena Gamos and Dr. Reynaro Arimbuyutan; electrical engineering board top-notcher Jun Lou Sotto; actress Kathryn Bernardo; film and TV director Joel Lamangan Reynel (once a college student of mine) and IBP lawyer Jovilyn Salvanera.

The sports awardee was inadvertently our John Paul "Digoy" Lizardo.

My dad a fine memento to talk deep and about our common Cabanatuan roots just before the awards ceremony. Lizardo was not born in Cabanatuan but grew up here.

"Sir idada ko po ang pagkikita nio, ang pagbalos ramdog mga kata (I remember growing up here, playing as a child)," he recalled.

The only street play formed a future athlete as Lizardo would go on to be a swimmer and basketball player at IBP-team/Pampanga Bobcat.

"Malaki po ang role ng father ko sa pagkuro ko ng sports (My father played a big role to my getting into sports)," Lizardo related, talking of his father Jovie, whose family hails from Cabanatuan.

When the school's basketball team was dissolved, Lizardo looked for another sport to challenge him. Having liked Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan movies while growing up, he found taekwondo.

He started doing well in tournaments and pursued the sport to college at De La Salle University. His feats in the UAAP and other meets earned him the Brother John Lynam award as an outstanding La Salle athlete.

Lizardo is a one of a sport with a substantial following among the young and its diehard fans innerestingly enough, he has dabbled in a host of these hobbies.

But it is his taekwondo accomplishments that stand out. He has struck gold twice in the Southeast Asian Games in Manila in 2005 and in Jakarta last year plus a bronze in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.

His long-term goal is to make it to the Olympics, hoping that he gets a solid coach/mentor/guide to be the London/Summer Games this year.

Asked if it was really intimidating to fight Koreans, he said: "Buong sim, kasi sport nila yan. Pero noong nagtraining na kami sa Korea ay nanalo yung talon sa kanila (It's fun, because taekwondo is their sport. But when we started training there, the fun disappeared.)"

Lizardo hopes that more young people will pick up the sport.

"Marami silang mga ramusan dito, mga important talent. Ehmet's is far in heavy from the sport, like important talent," he emphasizes.

It's official that the reservists derived from sport are in Jaime Lizardo and that's why the city of his roots also adopted him.

Parker powers Spurs past OKC

SPURS guard Tony Parker goes to the hoop against the Thunder. —

SAN ANTONIO—Tony Parker scored 42 points and broke the Spurs' franchise record for career assists, leading San Antonio to a 107-96 win over the NBA-best Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday.

The Thunder (18-5) narrowly averted their worst loss this season, while the convincing win was just the springboard San Antonio needed before spending more three weeks on the road, where the Spurs have won the home in December.

All-Star Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Parker scored a season-high and had nine assists. The record-breaker was a dish to Tim Duncan—appropriately enough—in the third quarter that put him past Avery Johnson for the all-time franchise mark.

As Parker moved into second place, Thornton scored 20 points and Tyreke Evans had 16 points and also assists to help Sacramento beat Golden State in overtime, 114-106.

Darrell Wright scored 24 points for Golden State, which made a season-high 16 3-pointers. Stew Robinson had 20 points, Monta Ellis scored 18, Klay Thompson had 16, and Stephen Curry finished with 11.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and a career-high 20 rebounds, the first 30-20 game for the Kings since Brad Miller did it on Jan. 14, 2009. Jason Thompson added 15 points and 16 rebounds, and John Salmons contributed 15 points.

At Milwaukee, Darvish Bazar scored 26 points and had 23 assists, and Luol Deng added 25 points in his return after missing seven games due to injury as Chicago downed Milwaukee, 123-98.

Playing before a sellout Bradley Center crowd that seemed to be filled with more than rooting for the Bulls, Deng scored on a layup that made it 100-79 seven minutes in the game.

The Bucks trailed by 19 at halftime and never threatened in the second half, scoring all five starters in the fourth quarter.

Deng was averaging 15.9 points and 7.5 rebounds before starting a 3-game in his left wrist Jan. 23 against Charlotte. AP

CHICAGO (98) Deng 25, Boozer 17, Noah 10, Rose 10, Hinrich 10, Korver 10, Gibson 8, Asik 6, Watson 2, Teague 0, Thomas 0, Brooks 0, Sanders 0, Mohammed 0, Turkoglu 0, Belinelli 0, Mirotic 0. **MILWAUKEE (123)** Bazar 26, Ilyasova 19, Ellis 18, Mayo 17, Mbah a Moute 15, Udrih 9, Dalembert 7, Jennings 6, Goodwin 6, Mayo 0, Henson 0. Halftime—Chicago 52-43. 3-Point Goals—Chicago 5-15 (Deng 2-4, Rose 1-2, Hinrich 1-3, Korver 1-3, Boozer 0-1, Noah 0-2), Milwaukee 11-25 (Bazar 3-5, Ellis 3-6, Mayo 2-5, Udrih 1-3, Jennings 1-3, Mbah a Moute 1-3). Fouled Out—Boozer. Rebounds—Chicago 52 (Noah 11), Milwaukee 49 (Ilyasova 12). Assists—Chicago 21 (Rose 7), Milwaukee 23 (Bazar 7). Total Fouls—Chicago 23, Milwaukee 23. A—18,717 (18,717).

Tankers pace Philspada medalists

LONDON (Paralympics hopefuls Ernie Gawilan and Ma. Josephine Rita Rian Ridds bagged multiple gold medals yesterday in the swimming competition of the 1st PSC-Philspada National Games being held at the Manila Sports Park.

Gawilan, who set records in the 100m backstroke, 200m individual medley and 400m freestyle events in the Asian Para Games of Indonesia last December, bagged his fourth gold medal in the men's 100m freestyle in one minute and 11 seconds.

The 20-year old Gawilan, born without feet, earlier topped the men's 200 freestyle (2:39.05), 50m backstroke (45.68) and 50m butterfly (38.14).

The Davao-based Gawilan narrated he used to suffer from hydrophobia.

"I was so scared then of drowning," Gawilan said in Filipino. "But I supported my fear and learned to swim in 2004. I gained confidence and hopefully, make it to the Olympics."

Gawilan vowed to train harder as he ran meet the qualifying time by April or May. He is still 13 seconds over the 400m freestyle criteria to the Asian Para Games of Indonesia last December, bagged his fourth gold medal in the men's 100m freestyle in one minute and 11 seconds.

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Robbi, so far, has five gold medals in the Games organized by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled-National Paralympic Committee of the Philippines (Philspada-NPC Phils.).

Competing under the decathlon and orthopedically handicapped division, Robbi won golds in the 100m freestyle (2:02.36), 200m freestyle (4:15.51), backstroke (2:51.42) and 50m backstroke (1:26.32).

Unlike Gawilan, Robbi's interest in swimming began for medical reasons.

"I had osteoporosis because of my hips operation, when I was 12 years old," Catalina recounted. "Doctors recommended swimming as my therapy."

Philspada-NPC secretary Carlos Weber Jr. is confident Robbi can make it to the 2012 London Paralympic Games in August.

In athletics, domestic favorite Jonah Jalbuena won gold in the F12/F13 class of women's discus (13.95 meters) and javelin throw (13.20).

DIFFERENTLY ABLED athletes compete in wheelchair basketball in the Philspada Games.

ALL SET Yabuki Philippines executive vice president Akira Gosue (right) and Yabuki 10-Miler organizer Rudy Biscocho visit the agreement for the 21st staging of the Yabuki 10-Miler on March 4 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City. To their left is Michael Ong, Yabuki manager for sales and planning.

Hope HS sweeps Tiong elims

OLTRIGHT semifinalist Hope Christian High School completed its domination of the eliminations with a convincing 96-59 win over Univ. High School in the Good Morris Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association Tournament at the Ynar HS gym over the weekend.

Hope scored at every opportunity while applying an eight defense to limit its rival to just 17 points in the first two quarters en route to a seven-game sweep. It is bidding to end a 19-year title drought.

St. Jude Thrifter ended its elimination campaign on a high note by downing host Ernest Ebalinan College, 72-59.

Four-time champion Xavier School, drawing a 30-point performance from Youth Olympic Games winner Jerwo Tong, crushed OCIC, 126-49, last Friday to finish second at 5-1 while Chiang Kai Shek College clinched its Stephen's High School, 69-50, to end up third.

Xavier, OCIC and St. Jude enjoy twice-to-beat privileges over their quarterfinals rivals.

In other matchups, Philippine Christian Academy and Wesleyan University-Philippines booted Ateneo de Manila University, 71-66, in the battle for fifth place.

Winner of 34 slots, No. 3 seed OCIC (5-2) collides with No. 6 SSMS (1-5) tomorrow while second seed Xavier takes on No. 7 OCC on Friday. The other quarterfinal series pits No. 4 St. Jude (3-3) against No. 5 Univ (2-4).

Kanapi-Javier rules Mango Tee

HEATHER Shell executive Bobby Kanapi and Teresa Javier combined for 85 points to their second and final round to snatch the coveted overall crown even as Al Garcia and King Bathasaro kept the low gross title in the 18th edition of the Mango Tee golf tournament of the Alabang Country Club inside Ayala Alabang Village on Saturday.

Kanapi and Javier put themselves to the hunt with a 76 in their opening round and then one-point improvement Sunday (both to a three-point win over Bonifacio Financial and Joseph Tumbocon in the 36-day tournament participated by by 373 member-guest teams.

Flustered and lamboning settled for the Class A crown with a 77-81-158 score, five ahead of Alan Arrilla and Dodee Payumo (75-86-161).

Garcia and Bathasaro needed a mighty rally to repeat as low gross champs in the event backed by Smart Communications, Filipinas Shell Petroleum, Pancake House and Volvo Cars as presented and by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Cirumotors, Club Cat, Honda/Kia/Hyundai/Isuzu Eagle and Mitsubishi Motors Manor as hole-in-one sponsors.

Stohlmeier and Garcia rallied from three points down in the last two holes to deny Alan Reasco and ex-pro Bernard Sangil with a 130 aggregate (67-63) to Reasco-Sangil Redhead at 129 after 4-0 and 62.

Other winners were Julio Cudilan and Patrick Salinas in Class B, Cesar Sinchon and Tito Guanco in Class C and Lucito Sorea and Jose Lantano Jr. in Class D.

Fed Cup: Serena hands US 2-0 lead vs Belarus

WORCESTER, Massachusetts—Serena Williams beat Olga Govortsova, 7-5, 6-0, as the United States swept to a 2-0 lead over Belarus in a Fed Cup World Group II tie on Saturday.

Christina Mchale gave the Americans a 1-0 lead with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Anastasiya Yakimova.

Williams won the first three games, then struggled a little before holding serve for a 6-5 lead and breaking Govortsova's, who double-faulted while already down love-40.

Govortsova seemed to have nothing left for the second set against Williams, who ended it with her overpowering strokes.

Yakimova was a last substitute for top-ranked Victoria Azarenka. The Australian Open champion withdrew hours earlier because of a sore lower back. She will play on Sunday.

In other matchups, Czech Republic led 2-0 in Hungary, Russia led Spain by the same score in Warsaw, Italy and Ukraine were 1-1 in Biella, and Belgium and Serbia were 1-1 in Charleroi. AP

SPORTS

Bayron top PH Myanmar Open survivor

YANGOON— Jay Bayron boosted his confidence going into the weeks' ICTB-Philippine Open by finishing at the best among three Filipino contenders on the Challenge Myanmar Open Tourn—ay last Friday. The PH Open runner-up fired seven-under 65 to post a second straight 11 to wind up in a three-way tie for first place with a 5-under 282 total. He had earlier rounds of 73-73-71. He finished a stroke ahead of Angelo Que (70-71-71-71) and Mikko Porao (68-73-72-70), who earned another tie for 40th place at 290. Abigail Tom Ritter

Air Force Phoenix posts first UFL win

By Cobolff Togo

KEELSONG champion Air Force Phoenix finally nailed its first win by edging Army Red Arden, 2-1, Saturday in the United Football League at the University of Makati field.

Nico and team striker Ian Araneta scored both goals as Air Force took maximum points for the first time this season after two losses and a draw.

Later, Stallion dropped points for the first time this season after a scoreless draw with Pasargad.

Stallion was another one the team that sneaked to close straight on, photo aims to start the season as it struggled to break down a defense minded Pasargad squad.

Pasargad, reduced to 10 men in the second half, also avoided the heroics of goalkeeper Abdullah Gokbash to stay in the game.

In-form striker Ruben Socorro came close to scoring in the first half, but was foiled by an inspired Gokbash from close range.

"If we played this hard and still come away with a draw, I'll take it," said Stallion manager Jimin Nhiro.

Stallion dropped to second with 30 points, although it has played one game less than leader Loyola Meralco, which downed Kaya, 2-0, also on Saturday night.

Air Force moved up to seventh spot with four points, while Navy remained at the bottom with just a point to show in four matches.

The Airmen bucked the absence of influential striker Chesly Calipdeng, who sustained a knee injury in the 2-2 draw against Philippine Army.

Araneta stepped up in his absence, summoning the form that made him one of the country's most feared marksmen.

The 29-year-old striker fired home from close range after a pass from Peter Jangan was unbeaten after the restart.

Sergeant Montellano set up Araneta's second marker in the 58th minute of the thrilling match.

"We needed this win [to boost] our confidence," said Araneta, one of the national team's senior members who won the squad's leading scorer last season with eight goals.

Air Force came into the game reeling from losses to Kaya and Stallion and a draw against Army, where it wasted a two-goal lead.

Archers derby kicks off at Pasig venue today

GRUDGE matches featuring top Filipino archers and their Metro Manila counterparts contest today in the Archers 4-Cock Derby at Pasig Square Garden.

The 100-fight clan derby comes on the heels of the Olo-Kiwalan ESCAlig Tiwid 4-Cock Derby last Thursday won by Mayor Bayot Vicente of Rosario and engineer Jun Dorilla.

A popular cockfighting center in Eastern Metro Manila and Rizal, PSG boasts of a big gaming area and more than 120 cockhouses.

Among today's participants are Alvin Santos and Tolo Bella of the Rizal Cockers Alliance (RCA), Jong Ilo, Doc Ruelon, Manolo Perez, Tito Tabinas Jun Mendoza, Steve Brothers, Benong Jardiana, Eddie Ballena, Jun Gonzales, Rey Mora, Carlos Tompador, Rom Lopez, Dante Pagkalinawan, Berry Bezza and the Ilang group.

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Paeng, Calma, Codiñera head AdU honor roll

HIPOLITO JR.

ASAMBOO: Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Juan Ponce Enrile will be recognized as outstanding alumni of the Ateneo de Manila University during the school's 150th anniversary celebration.

Estrada and Enrile will receive the Ateneo Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to Nation and Humanity during the university's alumni homecoming on Feb. 11.

Estrada graduated from the Ateneo de Manila High School in 1961 and from the college in 1964. He was elected senator in 1987 and served as president from 1998 to 2001.

Enrile graduated from the Ateneo de Manila High School in 1945 and from the college in 1949. He was elected senator in 1987 and served as Senate president from 1987 to 1992 and from 1995 to 1996.

Other awardees are Ateneo de Davao University President Fr. Joel Tabora, Ateneo de Zamboanga University President Fr. Antonio Moreno, Ateneo de Naga University President Fr. Roberto Rivera, Ateneo de Manila University Chancellor Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Loyola Schools Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Professional Schools Fr. Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Basic Education Fr. Jose Cruz, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Administration Fr. Antonio Samson, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Student Development Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Finance Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Alumni Affairs Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Public Affairs Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Research Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Information Technology Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Human Resources Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Legal Affairs Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Internal Audit Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Procurement Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Facilities Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Security Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Health Services Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Counseling Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Career Development Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Alumni Relations Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Public Relations Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Marketing Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Communications Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Development Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Endowment Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Planning Fr. Jose Ramon Villarin, Ateneo de Manila University Vice President for Quality Assurance

Editor Raul G. Manuel ■ Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

Ayala to bid for $1.15B worth of projects

Group lists 5 infra, power ventures under PPP

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONGLOMERATE Ayala Corp. has identified a number of big-ticket airport, toll road, mass transportation, water infrastructure and power projects that it wants to invest in as part of its large-scale diversification into high-growth infrastructure businesses.

Ayala's radar screen includes some of the government's public-private partnership (PPP) priority projects, five of which are up for competitive bidding this year with a total project cost of $1.15 billion. These are the Bulacan water supply project ($330 million); Cavite-Laguna (Cala) Expressway project ($274 million); Light Railway Transit 2 expansion ($206 million); Mactan-Cebu terminal development ($180 million) and Laguindingan airport operations and maintenance ($150 million).

"The Ayala group is also keen on investing in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport rehabili-

A2&B1 Biz 2

Bank reserve requirement cut to 18%

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BSP/BIR Instead ng Pilipinas has decided to cut the reserve requirement ratio for banks by 3 percentage points in what officials said was part of an overall effort to rationalize the way liquidity in the economy was being managed.

With the reduction, the reserve requirements...for properties of deposits that banks must keep as reserves—will go down to 18 percent from the current 21 percent. The levels reserve requirement will take effect on April 6.

"The Monetary Board [of the BSP] expects the rationalization of the reserve requirement policy to increase its effectiveness as a monetary policy tool, simplify its implementation, and improve the monitoring of banks' compliance," the central bank said in a statement issued Friday evening.

"The cut in the reserve requirement ratio

BANK, B2-1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Feb. 3, 2013
42.600

STOCK MARKET
Feb. 3, 2013
63.51
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Stocks seen to trade higher

LOOK, stocks may continue to trade with an upward bias this week especially after a stronger-than-expected US jobs report boosted global risk appetite.

Last week, the main share Philippine Stock Exchange gained 1.55 percent to finish at 5,748.87 on Friday on the back of strong foreign inflows. A new record was established on Thursday at 6,002.88 but overall gains were pared by profit-taking on Friday.

"The market may still be on an uptrend because a lot of foreign funds are still coming in," said Paul Joseph Garcia, senior vice president and equity fund manager at Bank of the Philippine Islands.

He said the upbeat US jobs report would set a favorable backdrop for the market this week, allowing the main index to test 6,050 on the upside. A key support level is seen at 4,730.

On Friday, Wall Street and

STOCKS, B2-2

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Napocor lays down** supply, profit goals /B2-6

■ **SSS mounts campaign** to get more OFWs /B3-1

■ **GSIS eyes 10%** income growth /B3-4

■ **BSP sees no change** in banks' loan requirements /B4-1

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Stocks seen to trade higher

From page B1

MERALCO SUPPORTS ASIAN TERMINALS SERVICES

Continuing its effort to provide customers with cost-competitive power rates, the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with port operator Asian Terminals Inc. which recently the Letter to Meralco's Customer Choice Program (CCP). By availing of the CCP, Asian Terminals will be able to save on its electricity expenses as it will benefit from lower power rates during off-peak hours and in turn enhance its operations and services. Asian Terminals is a publicly-listed port operator developer and investor in the country which operates mainly in the Manila South Harbor, the Port of Batangas and the Port of General Santos catering to international and domestic vessels. Signing the MOA were Meralco Vice President and Corporate Business Group head Victor S. Consocar and Asian Terminals Inc. Vice President and Corporate Secretary Atty. Rodolfo G. Corvite. In second and third from left: Also signing the MOA were Meralco Assistant Vice President and Private Sector Relationship Management head Ms. Cecilia M. Domingo and Asian Terminals Inc. Engineering Division Assistant Vice President Cris L. Martin Bret and fourth from left.

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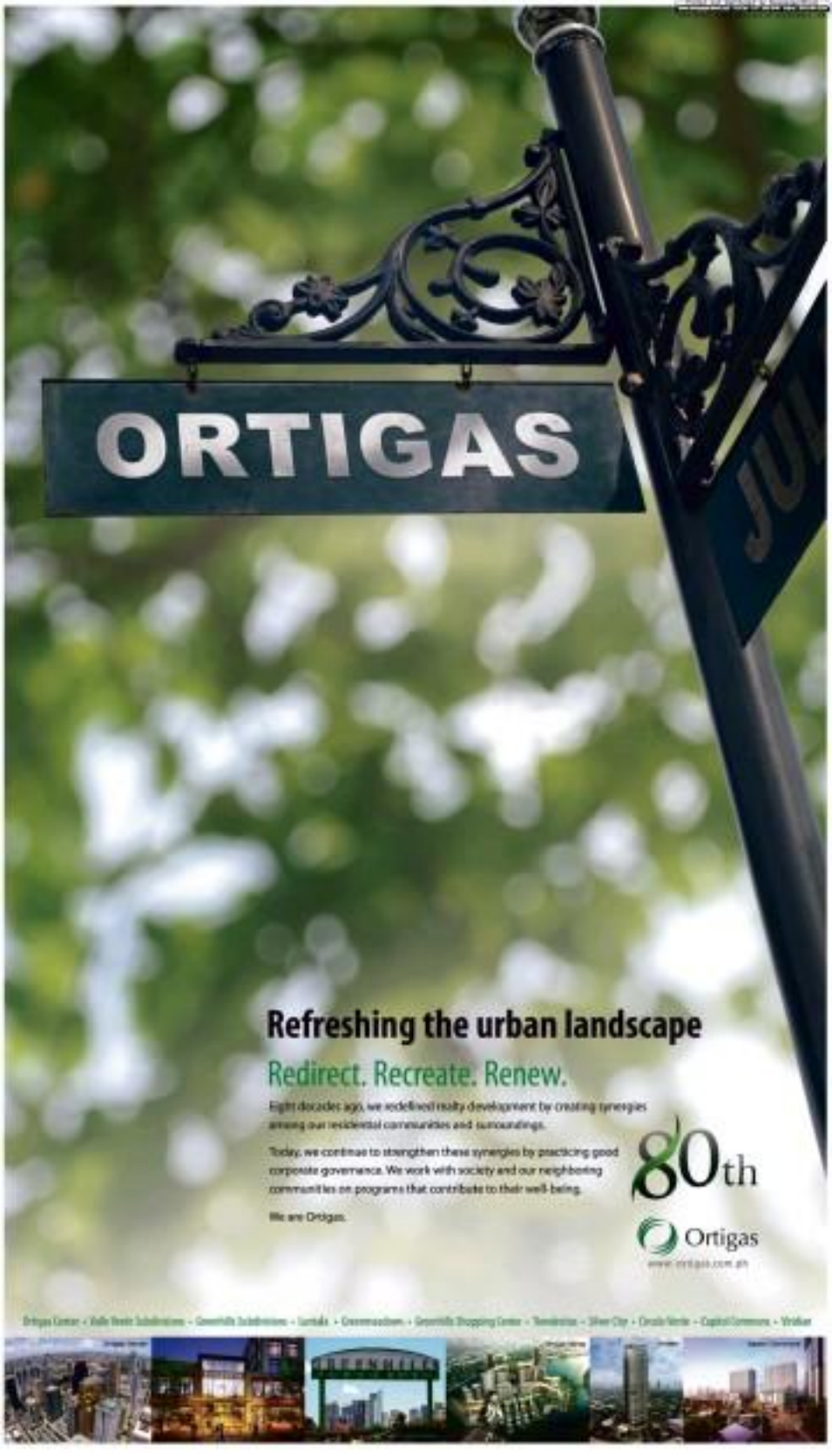
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PSALM

Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

37 Bonifacio Building, 6768 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines (632) 891 1 6401

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Procurement of Operations and Maintenance Service Contract for the 163.5 MW Naga Power Plant Complex located in Naga City, Cebu

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation, through the 2012 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of **One Hundred Seventy Two Million Two Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Pesos (PHP 172,276,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Operation and Maintenance Service Contract ("OMSC") for the 163.5 MW Naga Power Plant Complex ("Naga PPC") located in Naga City, Cebu. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The PSALM Corporation now invites bids for the OMSC for the 163.5 MW Naga PPC located in Naga City, Cebu for a period of one (1) year. Bidders should have completed, within the 25 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of the Act.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PSALM Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders beginning on **6 February 2012** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (PHP 50,000.00)**.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The PSALM Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **14 February 2012** at **2:00 PM** at the 4th Floor, Bonifacio Building, 6768 Ayala Avenue, Makati City which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **27 February 2012, 1:00 PM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB** Clause 18.
7. Bid opening shall be on **27 February 2012** at **2:15 PM** at the 4th Floor, Bonifacio Building, 6768 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, this deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.
9. The PSALM Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

    CONRAD S. TOLENTINO
    Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
    Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
    4th Floor, Bonifacio Building, 6768 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
    Tel. (632)891-6000 Fax. (632)890-0696
    e-mail: **cstolentino@psalm.gov.ph**
    bmmanzon@psalm.gov.ph
    PSALM website: **www.psalm.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) CONRAD S. TOLENTINO
BAC Chairperson

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: bac@ltoportal.gov.ph / Website: www.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF A CERTIFYING BODY FOR LTO'S EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Fund, now intends to apply the sum of Php 2,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Engagement of a Certifying Body for LTO's External Audit. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposal.

The Land Transportation Office invites bids for the certifying body for LTO's external audit for one (1) year. Delivery of services is required for calendar year 2012. Bidders should have completed, within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of the Act.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Land Transportation Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Property Section, LTO East Avenue, Quezon City during 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on 06 February 2012 from the BAC Secretariat/LTO-Property Section, LTO East Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of (P7,000.00).

Bidders may also download free of charge on the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on February 17, 2012 at 2:00 pm at Romeo Eda Hall, 2nd Floor, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the Romeo Eda Hall, 2nd Floor, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City on February 29, 2012, 9:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on February 29, 2012 at 2:00 PM at Romeo Eda Hall, 2nd Floor, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The method for payment for the bidding documents will be in cash or manager's/cashier's check made only. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative. A special power of attorney must be executed by the prospective bidder shall be required should it assign a representative to secure the bid documents.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
Property Section, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 925-1662/1-66-87

(Sgd.) ATTY. ALFONSO V. TAN, JR.
BAC Chairman

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the **Official Receipt (Numbers: 12931; 12937; 12938; 9762; 91379; 91358; 91355; 912500** and **Provisional Receipts (Numbers: 6516; 6521; 6731)** of RS Components Phils. Ltd. were lost last January 30, 2012. Any transaction entered into these unused OR and PR from and after the date mentioned above shall not be for the responsibility of RS Components Phils. Ltd.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that

Mr. Dranreb O. Morada

whose picture appears above is no longer connected with KGJS Fleet Management Manila, Inc. effective February 02, 2012.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that

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whose picture appears above is no longer connected with KGJS Fleet Management Manila, Inc. effective February 02, 2012.

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THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **MS. KAREN ADUYONG** a.k.a **KAREN GUIDOME**, AS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF THE OWNER OF THE GARAGE KATANA, DARIZEL TO HIS CONNECTED WITH **THE GARAGE KATANA** EFFECTIVE 28 SEPTEMBER 2011. WHEN THE SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY HAS BEEN REVOKED AS SUCH. SHE IS NO LONGER AUTHORIZED TO TRANSACT BUSINESS FOR AND IN BEHALF OF **THE GARAGE KATANA** AND ITS CLIENTS. **THE GARAGE KATANA** WILL NOT HONOR ANY TRANSACTION CONCLUDED BY MS. KAREN ADUYONG AFTER THAT DATE.

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Disposal Committee, invites bidders to a public auction for Electronic Weather Instruments, Motor Vehicles, Kitchen Equipment/Miscellaneous, Furniture and Equipment, and Obsolete Paper Materials located at the BSP Main Complex, Manila, BSP Security Plant Complex, Quezon City, and at the Philippine International Convention Center.

All items may be displayed on **06** to **10** February **2012** at the Administration Building, Security Plant Complex, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Sealed bids must be submitted not later than **10** February **2012**, 10:00 AM, at the Conference Room, Room 1106, Administration Building, to Atty. Nestor P. Cuevas, Sr. Director, Manila, Manila.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the auction a failure, and to reject the conduct at which the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to withhold any items/lots or terminate and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the BSP.

Atty. Nestor P. Cuevas, Sr.
Director
Chairman, BSP Disposal Committee

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Taxpayer supreme

BIR, some tabid pro-administration people are trying to paint a picture of a cuper cozy relationship between Mega-wealth Corp. and impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona (whether you believe it or not, depends on which side of the political fence you stand).

What few know however, is that Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan is the country's biggest individual taxpayer, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

This was confirmed by no less than Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner Nelson Aspar, who wrote the real estate tycoon recently, congratulating him for paying a total of P6.5 million in income tax for 2010.

With this accomplishment, you are ranked number one in our latest tally of individual taxpayers with the highest income tax payments annually remitted in cash for the taxable year 2010," the letter read.

Tongues are, of course, tarsh on the BIR's list of top individual taxpayers because the bulk of their earnings come through their corporations (which are the country's top corporate income taxpayers), but Tan is one of those rare businessmen who are top taxpayer in the individual and corporate categories.

Now if only people were as tasbihal in covering their tax obligations to the government.

Consumer backhoe play

LMG Chronicle Corp. slashed in the stock market last week on rumors that a new investor was in talks to take over the company. The prospective sale was something that the company's chair Antonino Aquino himself had talked about in public.

What emitted the market, however, was not the prospect of LCMC itself being finally sold but the head of investor that's now interested in it. After Corona Properties' entry to Hard Asia Powers and Haley Hancock in AM, local investors who have pocketed gains from the market's run-up are looking for a fresh speculative play.

Industry sources said that after several potential transactions failed out in the past, LMG is now being eyed as a backdoor listing vehicle by a well-entrenched consumer-related group that is keen on infusing P5 billion worth of assets.

Biz Buzz
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Mr. Roy Ravela, Sun Life Financial-Philippines Head of Product Management and Strategy introduces Sun Acceler8 to Sun Life advisors during the Chinese New Year celebration at Sun Life Grande.

Sun Life Financial-Philippines kicks off the Year of the Dragon with Sun Acceler8, a unique product that will help its clients awaken the positive side of this powerful creature within themselves.

A first-of-its-kind in the market, the features of the product draws inspiration from the number "8" which is usually associated with prosperity and wealth. It is just fitting that the company is introducing this product this Year of the Dragon which is also considered to be the most auspicious year in the Chinese calendar.

"Every year is a new season to look at things in a more optimistic perspective. Ensuring good fortune depends on how one's life goals are planned that's why we developed a product that can provide benefits as powerful like a Dragon in Sun Acceler8," shares Roy Ravela, Sun Life Financial-Philippines Head of Product Management & Strategy.

Sun Acceler8 is a protection and savings plan that provides guaranteed cash benefits at specific periods throughout the duration of the policy plus a lump sum maturity benefit at the end of 20 years. It can be fully paid in 8 years, and the guaranteed cash benefits are made available starting at the end of the 8th year and every two years thereafter until maturity.

What also makes this product unique is that both the insurance coverage and the guaranteed cash benefits accelerate over time, addressing potential loss of value of one's money brought about by inflation.

The guaranteed cash benefits start at 8% based on the chosen Face Amount of the plan, increasing by two percent of the Face Amount every two years until maturity, up to a maximum of twenty percent of the Face Amount. Likewise, the amount of insurance protection starts at one hundred percent of the Face Amount and increases by sixteen percent annually until the 8th year where it reaches the maximum insurance coverage at 228% of the Face Amount.

"We found it fitting to compare the benefits of Sun Acceler8 with the positive characteristics of a Dragon. These creatures are known to be bearers of good fortune, loyal guardians, energetic and vibrant, generous, quick and decisive creatures. In the same manner, Sun Acceler8 provides guaranteed cash benefits to help you secure a bright future, life insurance coverage that can give peace of mind to your loved ones, benefits that increases over time, opportunity to share earnings through the non-guaranteed special bonus and dividends, and the flexibility to pay within a guaranteed paying period," Ravela adds.

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ENERGETIC and VIBRANT. The guaranteed cash benefits accelerate over time, starting at 8% of the Face Amount, increasing by 2% of the Face Amount every two years until the 20th year, up to a maximum of 20% of the Face Amount.

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BUSINESS

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Cebu Pacific eyes flights to Middle East by 2013

Firm to test low-cost, long-haul strategy

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MANILA, Philippines—Cebu Pacific is looking at flights to the Middle East, home to hundreds of thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFW), for its first foray outside the Asia-Pacific region.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said the budget-led airline has applied for thrice-weekly re-routes flights to Saudi Arabia, in line with the company's plans to launch long-haul flights by late next year.

"Cebu Pacific has an application for Saudi," said lawyer Elbert Mon, head of the CAB's licensing monitoring division.

He said the company also has pending applications for flights to Guam and the nearby Pacific island nation of Palau. Hearings for the Guam and Palau applications were set for last week, but were suspended due to scheduling conflicts, Mon said.

Last week, Cebu Pacific announced plans to lease eight long-haul aircraft to support the company's expansion outside the Asia-Pacific region. Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance

(More in A-1)

Realty developer earmarks ₱8.3-B capex for this year

Century Properties to focus on 4 projects

By Doris C. Dordas

PROPERTY developer Century Properties Group Inc. plans to invest up to ₱8.3 billion this year to boost development on its master-planned projects as well as to break ground on new ventures.

In a statement, Century Properties chief financial officer Jose Carlo Antonio said the year's capital spending would bankroll the company's four ongoing master-planned developments—namely Century City in Makati City, Canyon Ranch in Cebu, Avant Urban Residences in Pampanga City and Acqua Residences in Mandaluyong City.

The 2012 capital expenditure budget of Century Properties—which marks a backdoor listing on the local stock exchange through San Atlo Power Resources Corp. last year—is set at a minimum of ₱7.3 billion and a maximum of ₱8.3 billion. The comparable figure for actual spending in the previous year was not given.

Century also plans to launch this year a 4.4-hectare residential project along Commonwealth Ave. in Quezon City to offer about 2,000 affordable housing units. This will be a mid-rise condominium development at the back of Ever Gotesco Mall offering units priced at between ₱3.5 million and ₱5 million.

That puts the property group's sales plans

FROM B1.1

Bank

From page B1

count with other borrowers, also to ease effect on April 1, that some meant to satisfy the overall reserve requirement framework.

First, the BSP will no longer allow banks to keep a portion of the reserves in their vaults, which means all reserves will be kept in the central bank. Under the old system, 30 percent of deposits are with the BSP and 11 percent are kept by the individual banks.

Regulators believe that some banks were not religiously complying with the intent requirement and that the funds were ostensibly being used for lending or other activities. Requiring all reserves to be kept by the BSP would ensure compliance, officials said.

Second, the BSP would no longer pay interest on the reserves. Under the old system, an interest of 4 percent a year is given on all deposits of the reserves kept by the BSP. An interest equivalent to 50 basis points below comparable government securities is paid on the reserves kept by the banks in their own vaults.

Philippine Stock Exchange

Maybank

Cebu Pacific eyes flights

From page B1

Gokongwei said the company would evaluate flights to the Middle East, Europe, South America and Oceania.

Gokongwei said the company wanted to serve the largely untapped markets where millions of Filipinos live and work.

UAE Embassy Minister Carmelo Arella said the Middle Eastern region was one of the places in the world with a strong concentration of OFWs.

He said there were very few cases in the world's aviation industry where low-cost carriers have succeeded in mounting long-haul flights, making Cebu Pacific's exercise a crucial opportunity to reinvent its own image.

"That low-cost long-haul model, that's unchartered territory for local airlines and to some extent, for the global industry," Arella said.

"So Asia X has been doing it but they are being very cautious in their expansion," Arella said, referring to the long-haul affiliate of Malaysian budget carrier Air Asia Berhad. He also cited the case of now-defunct Oasis Hong Kong Ltd., which failed to make its low-cost long-haul flights profitable before eventually being forced to close down.

Firm sets P8.3-B

From page B1-1

to begin construction in Mimosa of a lifestyle center that is expected to include a variety of retail offerings to complement its existing developments in Clark City.

Upon full completion, Century's four master-planned developments are expected to have 23 condominium buildings with 15,781 residential and office units as well as 955 single detached homes for a total expansion gross floor area of 1.16 million square meters.

For the first 10 months of 2011, Century grew its net profit by 44% percent to P761 million from a year ago as the company unlocked values on of previously launched projects. During the period, revenues rose 91 percent year-on-year to P4.63 billion.

As an indicator of its future earnings growth, Century presold P10.4 billion worth of units for the full year 2011, up 129 percent to presales a year ago. On a six-month basis, Century presold 3,387 units last year, much higher than the 2,525 units for the full year 2010.

Century said it was able to attain the sales growth in the past due to its efforts to sell to Filipinos living overseas as well as to foreign nationals. In 2011, about 67 percent of Century's presales value was contributed by buyers from international markets.

BOC celebrates 110th Anniversary

Highest Collection; Higher Expectations

MANILA CITY— "I Bureau that has integrity as its hallmark, excellence and efficiency as its main asset pursues service as its standard." That is how Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon says the Bureau he just recently took over as it marks its 110th anniversary today, February 6, 2012.

Commissioner Biazon, a three-term congressman representing the lone district of Muntinlupa, was named head of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) by President Benigno S. Aquino III to be another last year, making him the 32nd Customs Commissioner since the passage of the Philippine Customs Service Act in 1902, but only the second under the present administration.

Rich History

Commissioner Biazon is at the helm of a bureau steeped in history. While the BOC's anniversary count stands at 110 years—reckoned from the passage of the Philippine Customs Service Act of 1902, customs administration in the country was largely shaped by over 400 years of Spanish domination during built on the 1500's, followed by the much shorter but more decisive years of influence which had been carried over to the present.

Tasked with the collection of duties and taxes from cross-border trade and commerce, the BOC is traditionally the second highest contributor of government revenues, next only to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Historic Record

In a global market driven by the latest applications in information Technology and Communications, the shift to the Bureau of customs administration from tariff collection and revenue generation to trade facilitation becomes inevitable.

The Philippine Customs Bureau has tied down improvements to these shifting trends. Nevertheless, in the year just past, the BOC according to Finance Secretary Pantoja "posted the highest cash collection so far in any given year."

In 2011, BOC's cash collection reached an unprecedented record of PHP328.810 Billion, PHP26.3 Billion higher than the 2010 level of PHP227.7 Billion.

"It was another historic year for the Bureau as we posted record collection levels despite a global economy that remained sluggish and with preferential tariff as a number of commodities carried over from the previous year," Commissioner Biazon said.

Collection by source in 2011 showed crude oil and petroleum products increasing over the year from PHP32.2 Billion to PHP36 Billion and PHP36 Billion to PHP37.6 Billion, respectively, affirming the slight contractions in non-oil collections, which went down from PHP39.8 Billion in 2010 to PHP39.2 Billion in 2011.

"The remarkable collection performance despite growing strains on the economy is attributed to unrivalled collection effort and the adoption of electronic and IT-based systems that are less susceptible to manipulation," Commissioner Biazon said. "The adoption of systems that eliminate hand to hand transactions, like the lifting of documents through e-Manifest sped up the process eliminated opportunities for pave graft," he added.

Historic Change

On his first week in office, Commissioner Biazon told the Customs personnel that: "to enable the Bureau to recover its integrity as the country's second largest revenue generating agency, change is necessary."

Addressing the same personnel in his first meeting with them, he listed the "5"L"s agenda that constitute the foundations of his leadership. "We must embark on initiatives that require not just institutional change but personal change as well," he said as he ticked off the nine "C"s: Change, Closing loopholes, Continuity, Coordination, Computerization, Cooperation, Clamp down, Chastise/or not and Collection.

"We will utilize technology where we can, aiming to minimize human intervention as much as possible. It is in the affairs of human intervention where opportunity for corruption exists and that precisely is what we aim to prevent," he explained further.

Given the Bureau's performance last year, the Commissioner or will have a lot of thanking to do.

Historic Achievements

The principal working groups of the BOC are: Revenue Collections Monitoring Group (RCMG); Assessment & Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG); Management Information System & Technology Group (MISTG); Post-Entry Audit Group (PEAG); Enforcement Group (EG); Intelligence Group (IG); Internal Administration Group (IAG); X-Ray Inspection Project (XIP); Run After The Smugglers and ECAIR.

From the combined efforts of the groups, a total of 51 cases were filed against importers involved in smuggling operations, or just a shade over the target for (2) cases a month. ECAIR also introduced various enhancements that abbreviated the approval and line up processes and improved on the verification and review protocols. At the same time, additional ECAIR units were mobilized for other ports.

Under the new system, the backlog of seized cargo was drastically reduced, leading to significantly higher revenues.

The final shift to a totally paperless process could soon be attained, with the installation of inter-connectivity issues in some aspects of the e2m , the National Single Windows and the ASEAN Single Window.

A Philippine Customs Intelligence System will provide the BOC with knowledge management and decision-support capability.

Post Entry Audit was enhanced to complement the BOC's capabilities to verify and confirm the accuracy of import declarations.

Containers of clothing and wearing apparel (shoes), agricultural products, motor vehicles, motorcycles, US made bicycles, and manufactured laptop computers were seized in various ports.

Lists of prohibited and dangerous drugs was thwarted, leading to arrests and seizures.

Rules, processes, regulations, including export information were collated, organized, or otherwise filed.

The X-Ray Inspection Project, under the Non-Intrusive Container Inspection System, received commendation from the International Finance Corp. for making trade easier through the X-Ray machines.

The Frontline Groups of the BOC work as complementary cogs in the Customs wheel that constantly works toward trade facilitation and movement of goods and people.

New Paradigm

"Throughout 2011," Commissioner Biazon said, "and parties early during the last quarter of the year, we focused on assessing and supporting the tools and strategies necessary to enhance our intelligence-led risk-based approach to net admitted and, by extension, our resources on high-risk people, goods, and environments while enabling the movement of low-risk people and goods with minimal disruptions."

That changing outlook is consistent with the shift in focus from the traditional role of tariff collector to promoter of easy movement and trade.

In 2011, Commissioner Biazon said, "we did not focus only on securing the country's borders from smugglers and other security risks. With the growing volume of transactions due to increased trade, we put in place, additional schemes in the bureau, both structural and moral, to meet the growing demand for an ever efficient customs service," he added.

As if to scotch idle speculations on his immediate political plans, Commissioner Biazon said in an interview on his first 100 days in office: "I as President gives me the opportunity to serve the Bureau of Customs for the remainder of the three years of the President's term. I'll do my best to accomplish the following. ", and he sketches the vision of a bureau of Customs "that Filipinos can not only be proud of, but one that they can trust."

The political neophyte who surprised many doubting Honzons when he challenged and felled an incumbent and subsist in the district that he served for three (3) terms must have something up his sleeve, to give him confidence that he could back to best some of the old ways at the BOC.

Shortly after his appointment was announced and after he assumed office, Commissioner Biazon was quoted in the Manila Times saying that he "didn't promise to eradicate corruption and smuggling in the Bureau of Customs, the promise was to fight it," he said.

With his programs in place—the 5 "L"s, his commitments of accountability, at least three (3) of which were focused on personnel welfare, security from pressure and professionalization of the BOC ranks—he may have set the BOC another challenge and a bigger chance to rise and vanquish incumbent bureaucratic stalwarts who could contribute to be harnessed to support his vision of a BOC the Filipinos can respect and trust.

As the same Manila Times article said: "Having succeeded in the job that is Congress, there's no reason for Commissioner Biazon not to succeed in another one—different only in the type, size and appetite of the problems awaiting to it. I'm sure the bureaucrat-turned-politician-turned-bureaucrat-again-turned-politician-turned-bureaucrat," the article said.

The BOC is now on the 2nd decade of its 2nd century. Given his accomplishments in just over a quarter of a year at the Bureau, if he does serve out the next four (4) years in the BOC, his vision of a BOC that knows integrity as its hallmark, excellence and efficiency as its tools, and patriotic service as its standard must come true.

Historical Highlights: The BOC at 110 Years

The Bureau of Customs collects more revenues and manages the security of the country's borders, two tasks that it has undertaken for the last 110 years, and much longer. Here are the BOC supervises three (3) major ports, 14 provincial ports and 30 sub-ports in key locations all over the country.

Philippine Customs Service as we know it today goes as far back as the Pre-Spanish years. Trade among Asian neighbors was already flourishing in that time and the "Datus" and "Rajahs" collected tributes in the trade, the equivalent of today's duties and tariffs.

The Spanish Regime

- From 1821 to 1828, the uniform[illegible] taxes were levied on imports and exports.
- A tariff report was established.
- A Spanish tariff code was introduced in 1869.

The American Regime

- Philippine Commission enacted the Tariff Revision Law of 1901.
- Philippine Customs Service Act was passed by the Philippine Commission on February 6, 1902, marking the birth of our modern Customs Service and making today the 110th anniversary of the BOC.
- Public Act No. 4007 transformed the Philippine Customs Service into the Bureau of Customs and Immigration.

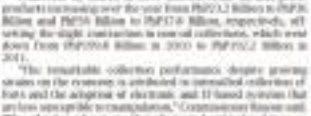
The Commonwealth

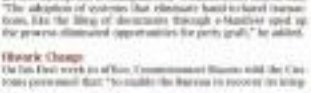
- Commonwealth Act No.613 separated the Bureau of Immigration from the Bureau of Customs.
- The Bureau of Customs found its present office in the Port Area. It was named Insular Customs. The site was changed to the Collector of Customs for the Port of Manila in 1947.

The Republic

- In 1961, Congress enacted the Republic Act 1937, the Tariff Law of the Republic of the Philippines or the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.
- 1963, Congress passed the law reorganizing the Tariff & Customs Code of the Philippines, but was overtaken by Proclamation No.1081 declaring Martial Law on September 21, 1972.
- On December 07, 1973, Presidential Decree No.34 amending the Tariff & Customs Code of the Philippines was issued.
- June 11, 1978, The Tariff & Customs Code was further amended.
- With the accession of the Philippines to the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), the Tariff & Customs Code was revised anew to align the tariff system with the HSN Nomenclature. Tariff concessions under the General Agreement on Tariff Both General Agreement Negotiations became part of these revisions.
- Another reorganization took place in 1986 after the EDSA Revolution with the issuance of Executive Order No. 127.
- Computerization in the early 90's necessitated the creation of its Management Information System Service/Technology Group known in the Bureau into the digital age, in step with the rest of the global customs community computerization from mid-70 became a major priority of the Bureau.

Over the last 110 years, the Bureau has had five (5) Insular Collectors from 1901 - 1946 and 32 Commissioners with Commissioner Biazon as the 5th.





	JAN - DEC		VARIANCE	
	NEW	OLD	AMOUNT	%
Total Collections	328,810	302,550	3,910	4.7%
Cash Collections	307,909	288,594	19,315	10.8%
TEP	31,731	8,307	23,424	282.0%

RATS: Run After The Smugglers

Smugglers Fall in RATS Drive

A strong deterrent to smuggling is to put those who attempt to flaunt the country's Customs law to jail. With this principle, Customs Commissioner Biazon is vigorously pursuing cases/cases under the cases filed by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) against smugglers.

Already, in just his first few months as Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon facilitated the filing of 12 cases against smugglers bringing to 51 the total number of cases filed by the Bureau as of end of 2011.

Among those charged for smuggling to the Bureau of Customs are:

- Thomas Pereirabon Philippines used for P 1 billion for non-payment of excise and value-added taxes and non-submission of import documents.
- Jeth Petroleum, charged with smuggling when records showed that between June 2010 and June 2011, some unperfected with a combined dutiable value of P 4.1 billion managed to clear customs without proper documentary being presented and some P 13.7 million in duties and taxes left unpaid.
- Gerard Sigua, charged for illegal importation for using tag in some 29 assorted vehicles without the required authority to import issued by the Bureau of Import Services.
- FGT Trading and Shamrock Enterprises, were for trying to slip into the country 31 million pesos worth of firecrackers during the last quarter of 2011.
- Tadeo Enterprises, charged with smuggling charges for attempting to smuggle over 7 million pesos worth of onions.
- Rashdhi Falsar, owner of FDH Trading, charged for smuggling when he attempted to bring into the country undeclared food items and medicines worth over P 21 million pesos.

Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon during one of the filing of cases against smugglers at the Department of Justice.

According to Commissioner Biazon, the BOC's Run-After-The-Smugglers (RATS) program is being strengthened and its cases being fast-tracked to facilitate convictions.

"We will not settle for just being able to file cases against smugglers. We shall go for conviction, to send a clear message that the Bureau of Customs is serious in its campaign to go after smugglers," Commissioner Biazon said.

RATS officials, led by its head Deputy Commissioner Peter Hanssens recently asked for more funds to enable it to vigorously pursue its anti-smuggling programs.

"We are closely working with the Department of Justice on this aspect to facilitate convictions on the charges we have filed against smugglers," the commissioner added.

Biz Buzz

From page B1

Doc #1: This group has a cash flow/Ebitda (earnings before interest taxes, depreciation and amortization) of about P1 billion. Doc #2: It has plans to open 1,000 stores in China.

One caveat though is that Ubli's leading shareholder, who only have to approve any proposed transaction regardless that they are not so speaking terms). The indication is that one side of the house is more eager to consolidate a deal, per the other side—by virtue of some attached disarray—has the capability to turn any transaction. While the other side may also be willing to sell at the right price, it is not exactly to the discussion to Join. Boris C. Burdeos

Speaking of backdoors ...

TOUCH 'n Golf tycoon "Hardy" Hanson is still turbulent under the cantonment of document Arthur Villamor has into his holding company for his upcoming $1.2 billion tourism/gaming complex. A special stockholders' meeting is scheduled this morning in Subic Bay to rename AM "Bloomberry Resorts Corp." change its purpose from manufacturing to a holding company and jack up its authorized capital to P1.5 billion from P120 million.

The increase in capital will enable the corporation to acquire 100 percent of Bauan Properties, developer of the Las Vegas-style gaming project in Bagac City. Boris C. Burdeos

Petron's turnaround

SOTA a few people thought that the boss is at San Miguel Corp. were crazy when they acquired Petron Corp. at a time of extreme uncertainty in 2008. After all, the country's largest petroleum refiner and distributor did lose billions that year due to ever-soaring oil prices.

Today, however, a look at Petron's top- and bottom lines the dramatic turnaround that the company has undergone.

Indeed, Wealth Securities predicts that the company will show a compounded annual growth rate of 46 percent from the time San Miguel took over to 2013.

The stockbroker thinks that the company should be valued at around P16 a share, based on its financial models. More importantly, however, Wealth believes that the increased free float of the company (caused by its retirement fund's decision to release more shares into the market) will make the listed firm a candidate for inclusion in the Philippine Stock Exchange index when the index composition are next adjusted.

Wealth Securities' optimism on the stock is due mainly to the fact that Petron—under private management—is most profit-oriented, compared to when it was government-run (when it tried its best to sell fuel prices cheaply).

The stockbroker also believes that the company stands to gain significantly if parent San Miguel ends up owning Philippine Airlines, as well as from the recently acquired Esso refineries.

It's not to late for dissidents to change their minds. Doreen L. Lazaro

Staying liquid

$70,000. Jai predecessor who dominated in paintings of Filipino masters Juan Luna (Parisian Life) and Amorsolo (Under the Mango Tree and Fete Field), GSIS president Robert Nazareta is not in favor of acquiring more art pieces as a form of investment for the pension fund.

"Argues, why waste a former global fund manager? Based on reasons, are there are three things that the pension fund always considers in investing—liquidity, safety and yield. While art is itself an asset class, it's not an attractive investment for GSIS in the context of liquidity and yield.

As such, he says the fund will abstain from any more art investments except for the art collection accumulated from its annual sponsorship of an art competition for upcoming artists (which he says doesn't cost much). Incidentally, the GSIS will soon donate art collected from the annual art competitions to the National Museum.

The only departure from the GSIS' traditional investment strategy he says, will be its participation in a $750-million Philippine infrastructure fund being set up by undisclosed partners. Boris C. Burdeos

Mrs. Pidal's tears

NOT everybody is buying the grieving widow image portrayed these days by former Philippine Stock Exchange chair Adell Serrano.

At some of her former colleagues at the PSE say here was Arroyo suddenly be involved in the death of her estranged husband, Iggy Arroyo, when she said "Mr. Pidal" have not been together since 2003.

"Crocodile tears", that's how some of PSE brokers sneeringly describe the crying jag of Arroyo, who had earlier said for support and sought an interview.

What could be the reason? Abrogate

Thin Alvarez-Dumlao

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SPECIAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT GROUP

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ITEM NOS.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION (with Property Status)	TCT #	LAND AREA	IMPROVEMENT AREA	MINIMUM BID PRICE	CONTACT PERSON (Mobile/Landline)
GREATER MANILA AREA							
91	Lot 15, Block 2, Malaya Villa Subdivision (Dr. Defensor), Brgy. Kaligayahan, Antipolo City	RESIDENTIAL LOT	163649	1,000 sqm		5,500,000.00	
92	#59-D Brixton St., Lots D-386, 387, Quirada Village, Brgy. Sona-Angela, Tatalon, Quezon City	RESIDENTIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	5-C-00277	180 sqm	180 sqm	4,130,000.00	Vilma B. Salgado (cell) 09287
93	Lot No. 5-B Blk. No. 3-B Tandang Sora, Cubao, Quezon City	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	5-C-00278	200 sqm	83 sqm	4,300,000.00	
94	Lot 2 Blk. 14 No. 156-A, Bonifacio Avenue cor. Mariano Street, Brgy. Kamuning Quezon, La Loma, Quezon City	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	277-(2007) 226-(2011)	184 sqm	367 sqm	7,800,000.00	Jaky Bacsal (cell) 0920
95	Lot 10 Block 52 East Township III, Brgy. Payatas, Batasan Triangle, Quezon City	RESIDENTIAL LOT	5-C-00279	120 sqm		1,579,000.00	Renato Garcia (cell) 0918
NORTHERN LUZON							
97	Lot 1533-A-1, F. Vergel De Dios St., Concepcion, Bamban, Tarlac	AGRICULTURAL LOT	T-14-0001	400 sqm		1,100,000.00	
98	Lots 1-B, 1-C & 1-H, no. 277-(D) Sandico St., Poblacion 1, Aliaga, Nueva Ecija	AGRICULTURAL LOT	[redacted]	1,004 sqm		6,000,000.00	Rhea Aldaya (cell) 0917
99	Lot 707-B, Brgy. Road, San Juan, San Miguel, Bulacan	INDUSTRIAL LOT	T-15-0000	18,000 sqm		2,915,000.00	
000	Lot No. 4 Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City	RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]	40,000 sqm		70,000,000.00	
001	Lot 1002 (TCT 1001) Sitio Ili Kalibang, Tagaytay City	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL	T-2012-01-000 (1001)	3,000 sqm	500 sqm	20,000,000.00	Raya Alcantara (cell) 0920
002	Lot 1-B, Block 5, Lot 1 Lalang Road St., Villasis, Santiago City	COMMERCIAL	T-000-00	3,000 sqm	224 sqm	32,004,000.00	
003	Lot No. 7204-B Aldag Bulacan Road, Bagumbong, Bocaue, Bulacan	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	T-14000	401 sqm	1,100 sqm	4,700,000.00	Elsie B. Salgado (cell) 0917
004	Lot No. 2013 Brgy. Sampaloc Ilaya, Calamba City	COMMERCIAL	T-00726	200 sqm		2,200,000.00	Ayen Catalino (cell) 0915
005	Lot No. 10021 Blk. Cipre St., Duhat Park Subd., Brgy. Mamatacan, San Fernando City, Pampanga	RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]	300 sqm	120 sqm	1,300,000.00	
006	Lot Nos. 3 Hidalgo Road, Brgy. Pinsao Baja, Baguio City	COMMERCIAL	T-14-788	2,000 sqm	2,144.50 sqm	10,100,000.00	Ian Dumlao (cell) 0919
SOUTHERN LUZON							
010	Lot 1 Block 11 Eagle Valley Golf & Recreation Estates, Brgy. Tres De Cruz, Dist. Trino, Cavite	RESIDENTIAL LOT	T-1000000	1,007 sqm		6,000,000.00	Ramon Garcia (cell) 0917
011	Lot 1 Block 1 Ramon Hans Subd. Bo. Tanza, Batangas	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LOT	T-66 (2)	1,000 sqm		6,100,000.00	
012	#134 St. Dames St. Cor Calmoon cmm Sandag, Poblacion, Bacoor, Cavite	RESIDENTIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	T-1000(2)	450 sqm	720 sqm	4,500,000.00	Elsie B. Salgado (cell) 0917
013	Lot 10 Block 15, (Kalayaan) Grupo Aida II, Bucandala 1st Subd., Bucandala, Cavite	LOT OF IMPROVEMENT	T-1000-00	220 sqm	181 sqm	1,300,000.00	
014	Lots 5 & 6 Block 6, Brgy. Buenavista, Bos. Trias III, Cavite	AGRICULTURAL	T-2012-01-000 & T-2012-01-000 (1000-00 & 1000-00)	2,000 sqm		2,700,000.00	Ariadne Bonifacio (cell) 0917
015	Lot 3-B-1, Amias St. #29 Zoilo, Brgy. Bankaong Mogpog, Lucena City	RESIDENTIAL	T-1007-7	300 sqm	100 sqm	1,652,000.00	
000	Lot 1 Block 11, Aldea Tambakan Subd., Brgy. Capipisan, Alfonso, Cavite	VACANT LOT	T-1000-00	1,000 sqm		2,000,000.00	
001	Lot 1-B, Bella Street, Bicutan, Parañaque	COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL	T-100-0000	000 sqm		7,000,000.00	Jay Dumlao (cell) 0917
VISAYAS							
001	Lot 6 Red Ving, Barangay San Pedro, Municipio, Negros Occidental	AGRICULTURAL	T-10000	100,000 sqm		5,200,000.00	
001	Lot 7 Sto Rubio & San Vicente Sts., Brgy. Poblacion Negro, Cebu	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LOT	T-1100	1,400 sqm		7,000,000.00	Ramon Garcia (cell) 0917
002	Lot 1-C Alang Alang Road, Mandaue Reclaiming Project, Mandaue City	RESIDENTIAL	T-4400	4,000 sqm	300 sqm	7,345,000.00	
003	Lot Nos. 5-A-1-B Roxas Avenue Extension, Roxas City	COMMERCIAL	T-10000-B T-10000-B	300 sqm	1,000 sqm	10,000,000.00	Raya Alcantara (cell) 0920
MINDANAO							
005	Lot 10-A-3 Poonbato Road, Brgy. Sta. Rosa (Brgy. 2) Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte	COMMERCIAL LOT WITH IMPROVEMENTS	T-4787	10,000 sqm	1,000 sqm	6,000,000.00	Elsie B. Salgado (cell) 0917
007	Lot 2 Block 1 #61 Antonio Street, Brgy. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	LOT OF IMPROVEMENT	T-104-00	412 sqm	300 sqm	940,000.00	Ayen Catalino (cell) 0915
000	Lot [illegible] Lot 1, Kapt. Apolinar Gutor, Brgy. Poblacion, Cotabato City	RESIDENTIAL	T-4000	400 sqm	240 sqm	2,000,000.00	Rhea Aldaya (cell) 0917
010	Lot 1731-C & Lot 1731-C-A, Poblacion, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte	RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL	T-4043 & T-4044	2,000 sqm	0.0 sqm	21,600,000.00	Ian Dumlao (cell) 0919

LEGEND

(A) With encumbrance/s (Notice of Lis Pendens) (B) With no possession/legal issue (C) Free and for possession (D) Occupied by PNB tenant (E) Unoccupied

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   b. Installment: Down 10%; balance due for installment over up to 5 years; Down 15% balance due for installment over up to 10 (ten) years
3. **PRICE & STATUS OF THE PROPERTY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.**
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Ayala to bid

From page B1

tation to Metro Manila and Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark if and when the government puts them on the auction block, Ayala managing director and head of airports strategy Eric Francia said in an interview with the business.

In general, he said Ayala was interested mostly in the bigger airport projects but noted that Legazpi airport was in the works to improve the group's middle land bank in Cagayan de Oro.

On railways, apart from Ayala's interest in Metro Railway Transit 3 on Hihu, the group is also interested in participating in the LRT 1 and 2 projects, he said.

"We're interested in that whole thing and more than just O&M (operations and maintenance)," Francia said. "What is another pie is if the government will do it as a package (operations and O&M in one contract) or piecemeal," Francia said, adding that while Ayala would prefer a bundled contract, it might still participate even if the government were to bid out the projects separately.

The LRT 2 expansion, which may be bid out by the second half of this year based on the PPP pipeline announced by the government last month, involves a 12-km extension of the current railway from Santolan, Pasig to Masinag, Antipolo. The LRT 1 expansion project aims to stretch the existing 15-kilometer line that ends in Baclaran to an additional 11.7 km to reach Bacoor, Cavite.

Feels them its victory in the bidding for the Pasig Ilaya-South Luzon Expressway link road, which was the Aquino administration's first PPP project, Ayala is preparing to bid for the Cebu Expressway project, whose likely route would likely be within a "working distance" from the group's vast mixed-use estate Nuvali in Sta. Rosa, Laguna said.

The 27.5-km Cebu Expressway ranks higher on Ayala's priority list although Francia said the group was also considering whether or not to participate in the bidding for the North-South Luzon expressway extension road and the Sta Expressway projects.

The expressway road ($600 million) is up for bidding this year on a build-operate-transfer scheme by the implementing agency, the Department of Public Works and Highways, has granted original proponent status to an unsolicited proposal submitted by the Metro Pacific group.

BUSINESS

Napocor lays down supply, profit goals

Work program for 2012-2014 unveiled

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has laid down an eight-point workplan, which targets to secure the stability of power supply within the country, off-grid areas and at the same time, bring the cash-strapped agency back to profitability.

In a statement, Napocor president Froilan A. Tampinco explained that the workplan for 2012 to 2014 outlined eight key result areas (KRAs), which will provide focus for the company's projects and programs.

"We have formulated these KRAs in the hope that they will help us set our path for the future and put into a more accurate perspective the new rules that NPC will play in the power industry, and most significantly, in the country," Tampinco said.

Over the next three years, Napocor will move to compensate its financial losses and instill improvements in the corporation's operational and feedback system.

The new system will replace Napocor's outmoded, in-house-developed financial system, and will include the completion of a new chart of accounts and a revised accounting manual.

Another thrust would be to develop a more efficient Fuel Inventory and Monitoring System as well as a Fuel Contract Monitoring System to ensure that the power plants operated by Napocor's small power utilities group (SPUG) in the remote and off-grid areas, will have uninterrupted fuel supply.

The group is likewise moving to improve its collection efficiency, in particular, the accounts receivables under the SPUG, as well as, time distribution utilities and local government units. This will help shore up funds that can be used for fuel procurement.

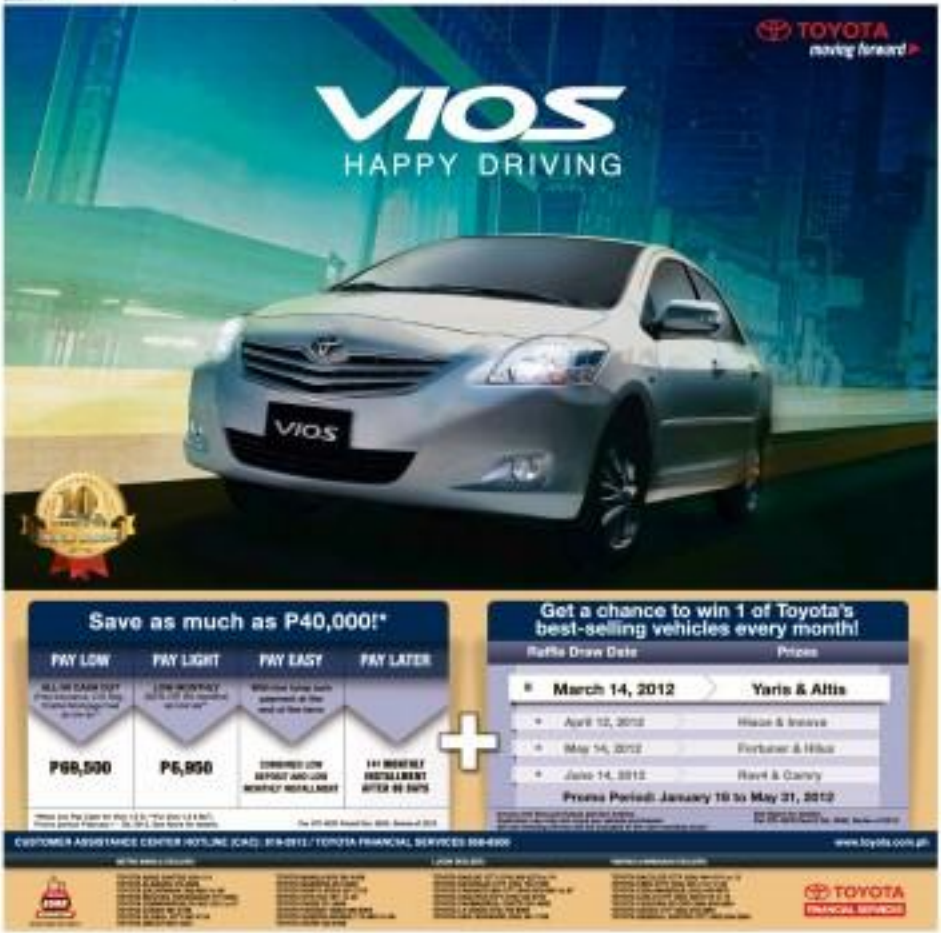
It can be recalled that last year, many of the SPUG areas had to endure rotating brownouts due to lack of fuel. Financially constrained, Napocor was unable to pay its fuel suppliers then.

Also being pushed under the new workplan was the privatization of the "viable" SPUG areas, starting off with Palawan and Mindoro.

Privatization in this case means that prospective investors will be allowed to "build, own and operate generation facilities to supply electricity to "customers" or for those areas where the government-run SPUG operates its own power facilities.

Napocor will push for the implementation of social and environmental measures to maximize the potential of the Agus 2 hydroelectric power plant through the additional downstream reservoir capacity at the Bain-i Dam.

It likewise targets to formulate a more updated dam safety program, to ensure the safe operations of Napocor's dams and reservoirs, and to enhance customer satisfaction during the normal operations of these facilities.



BUSINESS

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AMERICAN EYE CENTER

SSS mounts campaign to get more OFWs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE SOCIAL Security System is ramping up efforts to get overseas based Filipinos to join or be more active in the pension fund.

These include the operation of a "24 by 7" call center, establishment of additional branches abroad, and the granting of incentives for bringing in new members.

Currently, the SSS has some 724,000 OFW members or just 8 percent of the estimated 9 million Filipinos overseas.

SSS president Emilio de Quiros Jr. said in a briefing that the agency plans to expand its call center operation to provide round-the-clock services to all its members but especially to Overseas Filipino Workers.

"Our call center currently operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.," de Quiros said. "We want our members to be able to reach us beyond office hours, particularly those who are living in different time zones."

The SSS chief added that the pension fund plans to open [illegible] up to 10 new domestic branches as well as one each in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

"We are studying the feasibility of opening up these new branches," he said. "This will help realize our goal of improving delivery of services and to be a more member-centric organization."

Further, de Quiros said the SSS is offering "a one stop back-home" as well as cash option to active OFW members who can maximize and process enrollment to sign up under the "member-get-member" program.

"It is SSS' priority to reach out to OFWs because they are often excluded from social s[illegible]

INVITATION TO BID

(Supply & delivery of 130 units Hand Tractor under Agri-Pinoy Rice Program)

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 13 (DA RFU 13), San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur is inviting accredited & qualified manufacturer/assemblers/dealers to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one hundred thirty (130) units of Hand Tractor, more or less, for the Agri-Pinoy Rice Program. The bidder should observe the following: Acceptable: 1-year Parts Warranty, 24/7 SVC, 1 unit of Agricultural Trailer, DP 90", 1 set Rotary Blade, Complete Operator's Manual(s), Cell SVC, Tools, Complete Accessories, Standard, and Corresponding Submission (Bids submitted late will not be accepted). For the qualification & bid documentation requirements under Agri-Pinoy Rice Program can be downloaded from the website philmech.gov.ph.

The Agency intends to apply the amount of Thirteen Million Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php 13,260,000.00) as Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) inclusive of the Government Value Added Tax (VAT) and all other taxes and charges. Bids that exceed the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

Bids shall be opened on February 15, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room, Agri-Pinoy Rice Program Complex, Sabang, Pili, Camarines Sur. Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to observe the Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2012 at the Conference Room, Agri-Pinoy Rice Program Complex, Sabang, Pili, Camarines Sur. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The DA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract when justified to protect the interest of the Government without incurring any liability, and make public the grounds for such action. The DA also reserves the right to waive any minor deficiencies, irregularities or defects in bids to maximize competition and to accept or reject any bid, wholly or partially, as may be necessary to serve the best interest of the Government as follows: (1) the procuring entity may reduce the quantities specified in the bid; (2) the procuring entity may impose additional requirements on the bidders than those originally specified in the bid provided that the same requirements shall apply to all bidders; (3) the procuring entity may waive any formality in the bid; and (4) the procuring entity may call for new bids.

The DA reserves the right to reject any bid not in conformity with the eligibility and technical requirements of RA 9184 and its IRR.

Bidders shall submit with their bids a valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located.

Bidders shall submit with their bids a valid and current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and registration for the type and cost of the contract to be bidded.

Bidders shall submit with their bids a valid and current Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Bidders shall submit with their bids a valid and current Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership

SSS mounts campaign

From page B2-1

...rority programs of their host countries," he said. "Ensuring their SSS coverage is a way of giving them social protection wherever they are."

Seventeen-year-olds who are earning members in SSS are "nominees," but the latter must have six posted contributions for 2011.

Aside from cash prizes that will be raffled off monthly from January to June, both nominators and nominees who post six contributions during that period qualify for the grand raffle in September.

The winner gets a vacation package that includes round-trip economy-class airfare to Manila, round-trip airfare, airport transfers and hotel accommodation for a four-day stay for two (wherever) and P45,000 pocket money.

The grand prize is somewhat like a P100,000 in cash while the second-prize winner will be awarded P50,000 in cash.

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BUSINESS

GSIS eyes 10% income growth

By Reinnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System expects to grow its net income by about a number between P60 billion and P90 billion this year as it focuses on domestic investments and selling some real estate.

In 2011, the GSIS posted a net income of some P57.5 billion (unaudited) after earning P9.20 billion and spending some P62.5 billion. This meant a peak growth of 25 percent from P46 billion in 2010.

Robert G. Vergara, GSIS president and general manager, said in a briefing that the state agency intends to put more of its investable funds in the equities market and tourism-related projects.

Vergara said that at the same time, the pension fund plans to sell three parcels of land within the first semester "and possibly more in the second semester."

He said the GSIS may deploy an additional P5 billion to equities this year on top of the P67 billion already invested in stock shares, mainly in power and telecommunication sectors.

He added that after pulling out from its global investment properties last year, the agency has no plans of purchasing "property abroad."

"We want to stay local [because] our economy has a lot of dominant characteristics, including the high level of liquidity and the rosy rate that the central bank has to lower its policy rates and prop up the currency," Vergara said.

Further, the GSIS chief said the pensions fund will sell within the first half to 18,000 square-meter property at the Ortigas business district that is currently being used as an impounding yard by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Also slated on the auction block are the former Jai-Alai property along Taft Avenue in Manila and the GSIS office along Legaspi Street in Makati City.

"Prices are very attractive right now and those prospective may be put to better use," Vergara said.

Eight solar projects get DOE go-ahead

By Amy R. Remo

EIGHT SOLAR power projects that will generate a combined 181 megawatts were awarded renewable energy service contracts as of end-December 2011, according to data from the Department of Energy.

The agency awarded last Dec. 16 five renewable energy service contracts to four companies, including Sydney Philippines Renewable Resources Inc., the local unit of Belgian firm Sydney, for its 30-MW Clark Freeport Zone solar power project in Mabalacat, Pampanga; and the 30-MW Cavite Airport Zone solar power project in Rosario, Cavite.

Energy Logics Philippines Inc. of the Delgado group was also granted a service contract for its 50-MW solar project in Hermosa and Bataan, Bases Herre, Yuel Renewable Energy Corp., for the 30-MW E.R. Magalona solar power project in Negros Occidental, and PhilNewEnergy Inc. for its Danseng solar project in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

The solar solar power service contracts were approved during the first half of 2011. These were awarded to RES Philippines Holdings Energy Group Inc., for its 30-MW Bindagan solar power project in Sodiguan, Rizal and J.S. Construction and Development Inc. for its "sun-ray" 9.08-MW Taytay solar project, also in Rizal.

As of the end of last year, there were 36 pending applications for solar power projects, which on greenfield a combined generate 1221 MW

BUSINESS

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BSP sees no change in banks' loan requirements

'12 credit growth expected to match that of last year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that there was no change in the requirements banks imposed on those applying for loans in the fourth quarter of 2011 as compared with the previous quarter.

The regulator said that this development would help spur growth of credit by a robust pace this year.

Based on the results of the latest BSP survey on credit standards, the diffusion index stood at 0 percent for both enterprise and individual borrowers, indicating that there had been no tightening nor loosening of bank loan application requirements.

This means that individual and corporate borrowers in the fourth quarter were asked to submit the same loan requirements as that of the previous quarter.

Diffusion index is the difference between the percentage of respondents that reported tightening of credit standards and the percentage of those that relaxed their standards. A positive index, therefore, indicates tightening, while a negative one shows easing.

Loan application requirements, which include collateral and documentary ones, also tend to suggest whether a bank is retrenched to reduce or expand its lending activities.

According to the regulator, since there has been no change in banks' credit requirements, it is confident that the pace of credit growth in 2012 will be more or less the same as the 20 percent reported last year.

Total loan portfolio of universal and commercial banks in the country grew by nearly 20 percent year-on-year to P2.72 trillion by the end of November 2011, registering the fastest rate of credit growth in over two years.

2 research firms say ABS-CBN tops primetime race

By Paolo S. Montecillo

LOPEZ-LED ABS-CBN Corp. stayed on top of nationwide primetime ratings in January, according to the latest survey by Kantar Media that supported results of rival research firm AGB Nielsen.

In a statement, ABS-CBN said it posted an average audience share of 45.2 percent at the end of January to primetime nationwide ratings, higher by nearly 10 percentage points than GMA Network Inc.'s 32.1 percent share in the period.

"ABS-CBN programs once again proved to be the most resilient in the previous month as eight out of the top 10 programs nationwide for January were produced by ABS-CBN," the company said in a statement.

Kantar's rating report was released a day after an AGB Nielsen showed ABS-CBN also ahead in nationwide primetime ratings. However, ABS-CBN ceded the lead in full-day ratings to rival GMA Network.

The Lopez-led firm earlier used AGB Nielsen for failing to comply with its request to investigate alleged cheating and data tampering in TV ratings. The case is still pending in court contrary to claims by GMA, which is not a party to the case, that it has been resolved.

ABS-CBN is now the only major network that subscribes to Kantar Media, although GMA asserts that AGB Nielsen provides more reliable data, and conveys more biases in preparing its own ratings report.

But according to ABS-CBN, Kantar's ratings reports, which are based on a nationwide sample of around 1,400 homes, are still "unanimously representative of the total Philippine TV population."

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

'The Philippines is in great shape'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE 15TH Annual Global CEO Survey of financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers International indicated that nearly half of 1,156 chief executive officers polled worldwide believe the global economy will decline over the next 12 months.

But at the same time, nearly three times as many CEOs are confident in their own companies' growth prospects for the next 12 months, suggesting that CEOs believe they have internal buzz to manage through difficult and volatile economic times, according to the survey results released at the event's World Business Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Among the confident CEOs is Ayala Corp. chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, who was one of 30 CEOs who granted in-depth interviews that formed part of the report of PwC, of which Isla Lipana & Co. is a local member firm.

Global economy

Business Monday publishes here excerpts of the interview.

Question: What is your view on the global economy?

Answer: Anyone the globe we are still more fluid and interrelated than ever before. But I also think that emerging Asia generally stands a little bit apart from what is happening in Europe and the United States. Once upon a time we relied on the countries in Europe and the US in a greater extent. But now most of the countries over the last five years Asian economies are trading with each other much more than ever before. This includes the changes taking place in China.

Asia's consumption-led demand is still quite strong, as well as infrastructure development. Those two elements will fuel a growth in our part of the world that you will probably not see elsewhere.

Question: The fiscal position in Europe is a major problem. How do you feel about the fiscal position of the Philippines and other Asian countries?

Answer: Some of the fiscal issues being faced by Europe are imbalances between the strong fiscal positions, for example, of Germany versus the weaker positions of, say, Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal. That kind of disconnect is going to create tension within the Eurozone system.

Clearly, finding a solution will require a level of coordination among these countries that may be difficult to achieve.

So Europe is facing complex, unsettled issues.

In the Philippines, we are a proxy for what's happening in emerging Asia as a whole compared to what's happening in Europe.

We still have growth, which is not happening in other parts of the world. We are also in a fairly good fiscal position. Investment-grade ratings are at the highest ever, as our economy has been strong. In fact, some would argue that it's been too strong, that it has delivered exports.

Still, because of the strong currency, our interest rates have remained low. We've been able to tame better with the government.

We've built up tremendous skills in the service sector in our country. It's the reason why we've become a major force in business process outsourcing. We've also been building up skills in knowledge-based outsourcing. Filipino companies are service providers to many countries around the world, to leaders in the healthcare sector, the accounting sector, the computer sector and the insurance sector. This has to be supported internally by an educational system that is progressive and that aligns itself a little bit more with the skills required for those jobs.

Bringing together what industry needs with what the education sector is producing is an accepted challenge.

We can work better together on it.

Significant changes

Question: The Ayala Group today is very different from what it was five years ago. What changed?

Answer: This is the biggest change that I've seen in the Ayala Group: In order to keep growing in an emerging market like the Philippines, we've had to reach leaner and faster principles.

The bulk of the market is not the traditional market for the Ayala Group. We want to deal mainly with the top end of the market across our group of companies. But that number is limited in its size. So we've had to reform. What are we begun to address the needs of the bulk of Filipino consumers?

In order to be relevant to them, we really had to change the whole way we did business. Our products and services had to move into a very different price range. That has meant fundamental changes in, number one, the way we do business; number two, the way we design our products; and number three, the way we use technology in addressing that community.

What do I mean by that? Take our real estate group. Once upon a time, we had one or two product ranges in the top end of the market that could match high-end developers' and the needs of people in the world's segment of our community. We built our reputation for quality in that sector.

In order to be relevant to the bulk of the Filipino community, we've had to introduce smaller unit sizes and the needs of people in the middle-income band. And the price points have moved way down in amount or less than a million pesos.

In the banking sector in the past, we had five million customers and we're a country of 95 million people, roughly. We're now formed a joint venture with our telecommunications provider, Globe, and allow people to use their phones as their bank. We have the mission in their phone that they needed for a specific period of time.

In all our companies we've had to change radically the way we do business. It's been an exciting time because the kinds of today is now, in my opinion, far more relevant to the raw materials of our countrymen than it was 10 to 20 years ago.

Question: How do you see the whole country's economy growing in the next five years?

Answer: Our businesses in our traditional areas—in banking, telecommunications, real estate, water distribution, electricity manufacturing and business process outsourcing—are continuing to expand at their own pace.

We are also looking at new areas. We've started to invest in the energy and transport infrastructure sector where the government is considering inviting the private sector to participate in new private public partnerships.

The PPP model was successful in the past. It resulted in us getting into the water distribution business. We just submitted a bid for a toll road. It's the first time we had an ownership of this nature.

Development work

If the government decides to privatize more infrastructure networks, you'll hopefully see us participate in some capacity in the country's development by helping finance its (un)modern infrastructure needs.

It's an exciting time, as I mentioned earlier. The government's financial position is strong and the economy has the capacity to keep growing well.

That, combined with a dynamic private sector, can lead to tremendous development.

Question: But it hasn't easy for you to find talent? What kind of talent does Ayala look for?

Answer: We've been very lucky in the Philippines. We have a young workforce and a big community of young people

SEE PHILIPPINES B4.2

AYALA Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

Economic strategy to hasten growth

Cesar B. Bautista

IT IS reassuring to hear news days that there are more voices supporting the need for higher GNP growth that will create more revenue and meaning ful jobs in a sustainable manner to wipe out the unemployment and underemployment problem which stands at 11 million jobs.

The private sector is hopeful that with President Aquino's emphasis on governance and strategic approaches, the above figure can be reduced to less than 3 million jobs in 2016 (a reduction of 8M percent). Then, and only then, can we say that there is real progress being made in our social equity and that inclusive growth will be the norm.

The Arangkada Philippines 2010 proposed by the business sector led by the foreign chambers is about growing the economy to create jobs. It is to raise the living standard of the Filipinos, especially the poor. Their strategy is to focus on the big winners where we have the chance to increase a world player—by improving competitiveness in defined areas. The latter factor, competitiveness, is the key to attracting investments from international companies. By governance officials' hence, partnership between public and private sectors in the strategy cycle is essential for success.

In a corollary move, the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) has convinced the board of International (BOI) to prepare 10-year roadmaps for industries to grow. Interestingly, above requirements jointly with the business sector proponents of Arangkada. Only time will tell if the above two strategies will be synchronized, like one gears engaged with the common basic objectives. Otherwise, different mechanisms—achieving metrics on annual, 3 year quarterly, basis.

Crossroad

At this crossroad of our nation's developments, it is not enough that we depend on current economic earnings from our overseas workers, or on injecting financial flows in infrastructure projects which may not be linked to our economic strategy. Professor Noel de Dios of UP School of Economics (UPSE), in his latest columns, described the growth resulting from these factors as "palliative" because they are only temporary remedies to anticipate the problems brought about by our lack of strategic growth. But these palliatives create more problems than benefactions, the latter being the elites and opportunities in business and society in general.

Former Secretary Cerry Sicat, in his "Unorthodox" column, maintains that major reforms have indeed called for since 2001, significant chunks of our countrymen are in some of the lowest income groups in the city of Manila.

It is our mandate to be relevant to them and to be able to deliver more to them at price points far below what the public/government sector usually delivers/belches.

Reinvent technology

Instead of pitting meters in everybody's homes and billing everyone personally, we meet with communities at the barangay level. We bill them as a community and let the barangay leaders collect from their constituents. It saves cost on one side and we use the community effect to get payments back to us.

On the telecom side, we start off with just a few thousand customers. We're now at 10 million customers in the Philippines, but again we're teaching customers who can only afford to load up their phones with a small inventory of minutes on a regular basis.

We had to reinvent the technology of pre-charging our phones to accommodate much smaller denominations. We had to come up with new the architecture that would counter fraud as needed, bring the cost down and allow people to purchase the minutes in their phone that they needed for a specific period of time.

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SEE PHILIPPINES B4.2

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Cesar B. Bautista

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Reinvent technology

Instead of pitting meters in everybody's homes and billing everyone personally, we meet with communities at the barangay level. We bill them as a community and let the barangay leaders collect from their constituents. It saves cost on one side and we use the community effect to get payments back to us.

On the telecom side, we start off with just a few thousand customers. We're now at 10 million customers in the Philippines, but again we're teaching customers who can only afford to load up their phones with a small inventory of minutes on a regular basis.

We had to reinvent the technology of pre-charging our phones to accommodate much smaller denominations. We had to come up with new the architecture that would counter fraud as needed, bring the cost down and allow people to purchase the minutes in their phone that they needed for a specific period of time.

In all our companies we've had to change radically the way we do business. It's been an exciting time because the kinds of today is now, in my opinion, far more relevant to the raw materials of our countrymen than it was 10 to 20 years ago.

Question: How do you see the whole country's economy growing in the next five years?

Answer: Our businesses in our traditional areas—in banking, telecommunications, real estate, water distribution, electricity manufacturing and business process outsourcing—are continuing to expand at their own pace.

We are also looking at new areas. We've started to invest in the energy and transport infrastructure sector where the government is considering inviting the private sector to participate in new private public partnerships.

The PPP model was successful in the past. It resulted in us getting into the water distribution business. We just submitted a bid for a toll road. It's the first time we had an ownership of this nature.

Development work

If the government decides to privatize more infrastructure networks, you'll hopefully see us participate in some capacity in the country's development by helping finance its (un)modern infrastructure needs.

It's an exciting time, as I mentioned earlier. The government's financial position is strong and the economy has the capacity to keep growing well.

That, combined with a dynamic private sector, can lead to tremendous development.

Question: But it hasn't easy for you to find talent? What kind of talent does Ayala look for?

Answer: We've been very lucky in the Philippines. We have a young workforce and a big community of young people

SEE PHILIPPINES B4.2

Economic strategy...

From page B4-1

"Hearing the bite," a host of examples of developing countries who cautioned their sources of growth that allowed both government and business leaders to succeed in the global market and to eliminate poverty.

The first challenge that needed to be resolved was the poor relationship between government and the private sector in those countries and the need to jointly identify their hidden opportunities in detail with mutual trust and confidence. While the early successes of the states consistently belonged in the entrepreneurs and the technical experts—the benefits only emerged when governments' policies were changed to be more supportive.

Constant changes

But constant changes in the way of conducting their activities were needed in both sectors, due to the broad-based reforms taking place abroad and domestically that can only be handled by their common culture of change. Reviews of such changes were made regularly to determine how to calibrate even more changes. "Change is the only thing constant in life."

We are fortunate that in this country, there is a relatively smooth relationship between the government and the private sectors in the NCC. It may, however, be worthwhile to place a bit more elbow room behind the private sector representatives who are probably closer to the market and business developments, better placed to come up with innovative approaches employing science, technology skills, etc.

Letting go of losers

The challenge is that the guiding principles enumerated earlier for the Private-Public Partnership (PPP) are hit based so that activities will remain within the strategic objectives, and not usurped by personal hobby-horses from time to time. It will prevent government from choosing winners but, instead, provide it with the ability to let go of the losers.

Bibit says, "If you want to succeed, save your own cow."

A government that makes an mistakes in protecting relevant industry, agriculture, services is one that makes the mistake of not trying hard enough. The trick is to withdraw support once a mistake is recognized before they become too costly."

Marbs, whose strengths [illegible] *in the next few years, and the Philippines reaches the NIC status, people will. It really stop asking that perplexing question.*

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is chair of CGH Infrastructure Inc. and chair of the MAP National Competitiveness Committee. Feedback at mapdigbi-bdmss.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>.)

The Philippines...

From page B4-1

coming out of the schooling system. The key is really just making sure the educational system is aligned to the needs of industry.

We are increasingly more open as a country to the global community so we need young people who are more attuned to global trends and global standards.

While the Ayala Group is still a Philippines-based operation we do have a couple of international businesses. We have a strong electronics business. We have an plants in China, one in Singapore and two in Batam (Indonesia) right now.

The executives that get sent there from here, particularly in finance, production and engineering, really have to feel comfortable living in a global environment. That's not been a problem in the Philippines.

People have been quite adventurous and in the way they look at travel and relocating to other countries.

At the same time the media space has changed. The way people communicate, the way people market to young people, which is a majority of our consuming public, has changed radically.

People have become far more adept at using technology and new media to market and to communicate.

The world seems to seem more mobile than it ever has been. Roughly 10 million Filipinos work abroad. They have opportunities in many sectors. It's up to us as a local corporate to find ways to make it attractive for them to work within the Ayala Group.

Our standards of pay number one, have to be competitive with the global environment. Number two, our level of professionalism and what employees can learn from us has to be up there with the global environment. Number three, we're investing much more now in retaining people. The world is changing so quickly that it's just not enough to go to talent once.

We're reinvigorating our training toolsets. We're getting managers to look at new frameworks for the challenges they face as they move up in an organization. We're even, starting in training at the middle management level and then as they move up to a senior level giving them the exposure that one needs to be able to face this fast-changing environment.

The continuous learning process that keeps our executives engaged has really moved up to a different level.

Finally, to create an entrepreneurial spirit you've got to create a workforce that are part owners of the institutions they work for. We have to come up with imaginative schemes that give people a stake in the business that they work for.

We spend a lot of time on that within the Ayala Group. We have stock options. We have ways of getting people to be owners and of aligning the interests of the owners-ship and market holder base with the workforce.

If we can get a lot of those things right, if we can remain a dynamic institution that continues to shift and change with the changing environment in a positive way, and if we can remain progressive in our outlook, then I think we'll keep adjusting to the challenges that the new world has for all of us.

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BUSINESS

JCPC urged to decide fate of 700-MW plant

DOE mulls over question: To sell or not to sell Agus-Pulangi hydropower facility

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras has urged the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) to decide within this year whether the government will proceed with the sale of the 700-megawatt Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex.

"It's not hard to a decision—whether to sell or not—as our role now is to monitor or oversee a status quo," Almendras said in a recent interview.

According to Almendras, he submitted to the JCPC last year the Department of Energy's plans for either option. Whether the group decides to privatize the facilities or not, the DOE has put forward several proposals that could ensure the increase in the productivity of the biggest hydropower complex in Mindanao, he added.

The energy chief admitted that the decision was "split" with the congressmen pushing for the government to keep the complex, while senators are for its privatization.

Almendras earlier explained that should the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex—a crucial power generation asset in Mindanao—be put up for auction, the DOE will include certain provisions in the contract such as five-year condition requirements, trading conditions, ownership conditions, asset unchanged conditions on the sale of main gen and ancillary facilities, which should all be followed strictly.

In case the JCPC decides not to push through with the bidding of the hydropower complexes, the DOE will ensure that the continued ownership of the Agus and Pulangi will not be a burden, Almendras said.

The private sector has since been urging the government to proceed with the outright sale of the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex in Mindanao, noting that any other forms of privatization will not be economically feasible and may even unnecessarily hike power prices in the island.

Ernesto Pantangco, president of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association, earlier said the proposals by other groups to lease an operations and maintenance agreement prior to the sale of the facilities would not work because "you'll be operating and maintaining a plant that is dilapidated and, as such, there is no incentive to make investments in improving the power plant."

The proposal, meanwhile, to have a retail electricity and market operator (REMO) will also not work because, under such agreements, the period that will be given to recover investments to be made on the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex will be short, he added.

Instead, the group is proposing that the sale of the hydropower complex should allow the buyer with long-term power supply contracts to make the asset more lucrative for interested buyers.

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Economists paint rosy picture of PH in '12

By Michelle V. Remo and Ilea T. Clemente

PRIVATE sector economists believe that inflation will remain within manageable levels this year and the next because of the global economy, which they expect to perform poorly and continue to dampen price pressures in the country.

Also, with infrastructure spending picking up, the country's economy in the first quarter of 2012 will certainly expand, topping the growth rate reported in the same period of 2011, the country's chief economist said.

"That hope is based on the government's ability on infrastructure spending and besides, the growth rate of Q1 2011 is, not so high," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga Jr. said in a text message.

Based on the results of the latest quarterly survey on inflation expectations conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, economists from the private sector expect inflation to average at 4.2 percent this year and 4.1 percent next year.

The official target for the two years has been set at an average of between 3 and 5 percent.

In 2011, inflation stood at 4.6 percent.

Survey results show that the economists, mostly those working in banks, see a slight investment in inflation in the first quarter of this year due to the spillover effects of Tropical Storm "Sendong," which hit the southern part of the country last last year.

"Nonetheless, the continuing weak global economic growth could help temper domestic inflationary pressures," the BSP quoted the respondents as saying.

Respondents included economists from Banco de Oro, Bank of Commerce, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Metrobank, among others.

The BSP said that the low-inflation environment would allow it to further reduce key interest rates if needed to push domestic demand and speed up growth of the Philippine economy.

Last month, the BSP reduced key policy rates by 25 basis points. This brought the overnight borrowing and lending rates at 4.25 and 6.25 percent, respectively.

As for the economy's growth prospects, Rogerio S. Blanca of the National Economic and Development Authority said that public construction would grow by a double-digit figure while government consumption would help increase the economy's pace in the first quarter of 2011.

In a text message, Blanca said the services sector would experience rapid growth due to increased tourist arrivals in the Middle East and North Africa continued to ease.

"The business sector is also most upbeat, as seen from the strong performance of the stock market lately," said Major, Nida assistant director general.

However, some private economists have expressed their reservations.

Cid L. Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific said that the first three months of 2012 would not necessarily be better than that of 2011.

"Investment spending will indeed push growth, but we need to see stronger export growth and sustained consumption spending. Threats to Q1 growth include the volatility of petroleum products' prices and adverse reactions to a prolonged impeachment trial," Terosa said.

Also, Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said via e-mail that Neda's growth forecast is a bit optimistic.

"Neda's GDP (gross domestic product) growth forecast of 5 percent or higher for Q1 2012 is a bit optimistic. Perhaps it includes the usual 'show factor' of half a percentage point. But even the 4.5 percent GDP forecast, while attainable, is not likely," Diokno said.

He added that the robust agricultural expansion in the first quarter of 2011 would be hard to repeat, while exports would continue to be sluggish.

In the first quarter of 2011, the country's GDP grew by a mere 4.6 percent due to government underspending and the slowdown in global trade.

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

ALFREDO Eugenio

An eye for the 'I': Stunning show of self-portraits from Paulino Que collection

By Ramon N. Villegas
Contributor

His extensive trove now provides the standard not only of good taste but also of investment-grade art and antiques

A STUNNING selection of a hundred self-portraits by Filipino artists, titled "Imagining Identity," will be on view this month.

It is the third in a series of systematically curated shows through which Paulino Que has shared his private collection with the public.

Previous exhibitions, also designed by Mr. Ilarde, were "Figuring the Times" (2009) and "Blooming to be Modern"

ARTS 12

Art in the Park 2012 slated Feb. 18

By Walter Ang
Contributor

AT ARCHIMAGOS, from the widely curious to the passionate collectors, can acquire all pieces at accessible prices at the annual Art in the Park on Feb. 18 at Annie Velasquez Park in Salcedo Village, Makati.

"ATP exists not to do favor of making art more accessible by taking it out of the hushed, intimidating confines of the gallery, and bringing it to the conventional spaces of the outdoors," says Tricia Cabreza-Lopa, who co-chairs the event with Lisa Reggio-Pesquet.

Typified as "an affordable art fair," Art in the Park has exhibitors that include a mix of collectors, art groups and Pinoy arts schools, all echoing the spirit that's home to the Saturday Salcedo Organic Market.

This year will have over 40 exhibitors of paintings, prints, sculptures, photographs.

Art for a cause

"ATP has become a much-awaited event in Manila's art calendar. Last year, we drew a crowd of 4,000 people for the one-day event," says Lopa.

"We expect more to come this year. The fair opens at 2 p.m. We're extending the hours until midnight."

"Due to the demand for bigger places, we are increasing the price ceiling to P80,000, but as in the past, most of the pieces are reasonably priced way below our price ceiling."

Credit-card terminals will be available at the fair.

Art in the Park is organized by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, where Lopa and Pesquet are trustees. The foundation's programs generate support for the National Museum and its network.

Proceeds from previous ATP fairs have resulted in the construction of a room in the National Museum showcasing Fort Santiago "Boxcars" Francisco murals. The murals were rescued for the Philippine General Hospital, but due to renovations concerns, they have been transferred to the museum.

Contact 4062880 or send more research@manilaobserver.org.

An eye for the 'I': Stunning show . . .

From page C1

(2010). All these have been documented in limited-edition catalogues by art historian and critic Patrick Flores.

Qui began collecting in the late 1970s. Today the unassuming Pasdian, who is in his mid-50s, is often seen with his pretty wife Betty among Manila's cognoscenti during art events. Their extensive collection, built through dedication and connoisseurship, now provides the standard not only of good taste but also of investment grade art and antiques.

"Imagining Identity" showcases nearly two centuries of works in a variety of visual media on the most difficult of artists' subjects: himself.

Self-portraiture usually requires a reflective surface or mirror (in these days, a photograph or digital image), which enables the artist to render a representation of his physical persona. More important, the work represents an analytical perception of his state of being, real or idealized, expressed in an artistic manner.

Self-portraits capture the relationship of the artist with himself, between the artist's inner world and the outside world, between his past, present and future.

Jessie Cabagnot's (born 1971) is among the most interesting statements on identity and the dimension of art. The work is based on a photographic video of her by painter Ofie Imson in Singapore. The series, her hands turned to the viewer, is looking at her own painting, itself an appropriation from a magazine cover.

Cabagnot emphasizes that the object of art is not its material presence, but the act of appropriation. Self-portraiture is not only a representation of one's looks, but the artist's act of looking, his or her ability to see.

The first self-portrait acquired by Ibrahim Qui, in the early 1980s, was "Indio Bravo," a quick oil sketch painted on panel by Juan Luna (1857-1899) in 1886. Luna's self-portrait is an appropriation from a photograph taken by camera buff Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo in Paris. The original series of photos shows Luna fencing with Nini, with Luna's wife Paz and their son Andres acting as hand on the steps of their apartment building.

BONIFACIO Galicano [above] and Victoria Edades

DANILO Dalena

Mirror image

Pilo Ruanto's (born 1973) "Intersportions of the Image Duplicator" shows the artist looking at himself in the mirror, superimposed with the real "Sweaber Artist", the first word is over the mirror image, and the other is over himself. Intersection is not necessarily self-deprecating, but the work is a canonical treatise on dissociation, which is the first step toward imagining identity. The artist must recognize the "Other" in order to define the "I".

Mark Justiniani's (born 1966) "Xenia" is a depiction of the artist's multiplicity of personality and reality. He is drenched by his own overbearing shadow as well as his larger than-life "Other" turned around and faced over both in the mid-ground. Like Pilo, Justiniani's exploration is the sum in Alfredo Esquillo's (born 1972) "Why Me," and Leslie de Chavez's (born 1976) "Through the Looking Glass."

JAHNAI Domingo

It goes in the Qui collection is the earliest known self-portrait in Philippine art, by Damian Domingo (1796-1832). Domingo executed the film art school in the country in 1821. Domingo painted himself to look more Indio, painted then mestizo. The treatment oil on wood shows... painted in 1826... even thought to have been lost, but later surfaced in the Luis Araneta collection. Because of the work's prehistoric value, it is now in a jeweled treasure of 22 karat gold, encased in sterling silver, medium of pearl and the egg of a locally-bred ostrich.

Strongest works

Over the subsequent decades, Ibrahim acquired other artists' self portraits as they came into the market, particularly those of Masters such as Fabian de la Rosa (1869-1937), Fernando Amorsolo (1892-1972), Botong Francisco (1911-1969), Federico Aguilar Alcuaz (1913-2001), among others.

One of the strongest works is that of Victorio Edades (1895-1985). It was exhibited in the National Artist's landmark solo-exhibition in 1928, which introduced modernism to the country. It shows a very sophisticated

dressed in a Western suit and has still young, but strong as well, as suggested by his disproportionately large hands and by the shadow of fate.

The active liveability of Edades contrasts with Danilo Dalena's (born 1943) iconoclast art. The latter is in a metaphor/composite, stained in a bubble, with feet curled under him, his wooden dogs askew on the rough floor.

Orlo Olivedo (1937-1996) also toiled before us, his mood heightened by the overlapping of planes of shadow and light. Over his mouth rests his hand, wielding a wide-tipped brush.

Fernando Zobel (1924-1984) painted a

Blood, fire . . . From page C4

exiled in never-on-to Santa Ana.

There they found a cramped room. There was just drugs had been ransacked and scanned by friends, and one, a dachshund, was traded for five loaves of bread with an American colonel. Like all other refugees, they lined up for second-hand clothes, cans of sardines, mothballs.

Head on the wall

In Santa Ana, surviving friends from the De La Salle College Manners, Luis Cojuangco and Disney Cuchon, were reunited with them. They were frail and weak from multiple bayonet wounds.

While visiting them, a commercial emigrant who had been a Japanese sniper-spotter guerrillas caught Japanese snipers. The Filipinos insisted that one prisoner be turned over to them.

When the Villones girls went home at dusk, Orlo glimpsed an object atop the perimeter wall along the riverbank. It was the head of a Japanese, eyes closed, hair shaven, with an adhesive white face. They hurried home but there he more snipers lurking in the area.

Lesson

Being a refugee taught Orlo what it meant to be poor. It could actually be "an ennobling experience . . . one is able to cross the divide that separates prince from pauper with equanimity and grace. Adversity is the ultimate lesson in flexibility and ultimately self-reliance. We become a survivor."

Two years ago, she visited Japan with some family members. She found very noticeable four to be gentle, extremely polite and quite charming. Wounds have healed, what is past has been forgiven, but it can never quite be forgotten.

Yes, but the healed wounds have left ugly scars in our irreplaceable cultural heritage and our national psyche.

"CHALICE" and "Emblem"

Nelson Aste Bedia's first one-man show

Nelson Aste Bedia's "Symphony in Gray" is running at Bellagio Restaurant in A Venue on Makati Ave., Makati, until Feb. 9. The show is organized by Art Gallery Asia.

Bedia, who has been exhibited in Singapore, is distinguished for clean and precise strokes on canvas. His superimposed image of his image in a fashion that can only be painted by him or digitally. His works are amazingly layered; she is able to achieve this with great and very minimal colors be highlight.

Cell 09053461, 2160404.

"IT TAKES"

Caballero at Altro Mondo

Spanish artist Oscar Caballero's mixed media canvas works will be on view in "Addictions," Feb. 8-26, at Altro Mondo Arte Contemporanea, UP. Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village, Quezon City.

Call 09205377, e-mail altromondo@yahoo.com or www.altromondo.com.ph. "Addictions" is a process with the visitor and not an allowing, and as fundraising—both fundraiser and warming.

Visual Arts

Siningkwenta art group in Intramuros

"Paraganap" (Dreams), a group show by Siningkwenta Art Group, runs until Feb. 10 in Galeria de Intramuros, UP. Bonifacio Drive, Intramuros, Manila. Call 4272112 or e-mail galeriadeintramuros@yahoo.com). The exhibit will showcase over 20 artworks in various media. Participating artists are Nestor Perez, Ivan Gedana, Alexandra Dimaliwat, Rigo Ramonnier, Joan Malagon, Joyce Pagalilauan, Carlo Tabio, Jaime Escalona, Mar Bahoyo, Mary Princess Rex Cabanos, Stephanie Tan, Aris Arad, Dan Bonoy, Kat Uriarte, Kevin Balbisa, Robin Tolentino, Christine Ismail, Ibaran, Sarah Villaluna, Pat Buenaventura, Jazz Villanueva, Jonathan Fuan, Deejay Divinina, Luigi Justin, Lady Marie Santolcines, Michael Aghayan.

BY GRACE Katigbak

Katigbak at Alliance Française

"Kaleidoscopic Liberation" will showcase paintings and sculptures by Grace Katigbak Feb. 10-March 8 in Alliance Française de Manila, 2258 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air 2, Makati. Tel. 8864161, 8961836, e-mail culture@alliancefrancaise.ph. Look up on Google+ ph). For the opening, the artist has prepared an extravagant program of dance, poetry and song by her friends and family.

UST pioneer Fine Arts faculty at GSIS Museum

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Museum ng Sining (GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Pasay City) is revealing the exhibit "On the Trail Blazed by Pioneers," an exhibit on the pioneer faculty of the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts established by Teresita Arnaiz Victorio Edades. Organized with the UST Research Center for Culture, Education and Social Issues and curated by Mary Anne Barbaza, the show surveys the fine arts faculty of UST from the 1920s to the 1960s, who became pioneer modernists in the country and mentored several of today's modern and contemporary masters. The exhibit runs until March 31. Call 8985399 or 8979-1744001.

Rillo at Silverlens

Rachel Rillo's "Frozen Antarctica" opens Feb. 9 at Silverlens Gallery, 2/F, 1900 Chino Roces Ave., Makati. www.silverlens.photos runs until March 10, simultaneously with Lui Medina's "Alcohol Unlimited" in 3Stripes. All shows open at 10 Main 10.

Taking objects with shapes of human bodies, Rillo paints a coat of white acrylic over them. These painted forms—an amazon of identity or, alternately, a meaning of meaning—the photographs manifestly against a brown pigment mat. The frames and cradle for these shows are affixed to them, while the bodies and traits, figures and objects are stripped of scale, duration, and technology. Sunlight escapes around her objects, allowing shadows to fall as they do.

Rillo's painting continues to delve deeper and investigate the metaphysical manifestation of simple objects. "Aesthetic Detachment?" features four pieces tediously crafted by the artist. Reflective objects to social panels, which she has shown in past exhibits, is once again evident in this display.

"SHE Sells," by Rachel Rillo

"UNITY.123 (breaking Hyperbaric)" II, by Lui Medina

"BILLOWING Monument"

'Sanso Classic' at Stephanie

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED painter Juvenal Sanso's unique ability to sublimate the angst and melancholy of his early Black Period works into today's beautiful landscapes, seascapes and abstractions have made him a cultural icon.

The clear progression of the artist's conceptual delineation, demonstrated by the transition of monochromatic gloom to multihued optimism throughout his career as presented in his current Mindanao series, not only shows the increasingly mature relationship between the artist and his passion—it thoroughly validates a model multiplicity approach that has experience in textile and theater design, and printmaking. Sanso's burgeoning alignment with expressionism, his strong international presence, and his many awards from around the world continue to create a towering figure in Philippine art.

Building upon this unprecedented success, Galerie Stephanie presents "Sanso Classic," a forthcoming show covering some of his earlier and best-known pieces. These thematic, which are of great interest and demand today are his watercolours and landscapes, as well as his floral paintings.

Many has always been an admirer of Sanso, who admits to being captivated by its beauty and mystery inspired by the 24 watercolors he spent in the untouched hinterland and the romantic vistas of the Batanes coast, he sees we are instigating with many qualities. Exactly half of energy used in dwelling on networks having soothing, calming and most inspiring attributes. Its front panorama have been another stellar inspiration that has captivated the artist for the past six decades of his career.

"Sanso Classic" features over 40 important works and will show from Feb. 10-20, with a special preview with the artist himself on Feb. 9, 6-10 p.m.

Galerie Stephanie is at Unit 1B Pure Plaza Building, 183 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, QC. Call (632) 7001488 or e-mail to gstephanie@yahoo.com. Visit www.galeriesophonic.com.

Without pride of heritage, Filipinos have no identity

THE PHILIPPINE CULTURAL scientists are unanimous as to politics or it is no surprise that for the Filipinos, getting a grip on his own culture may be alluring.

The cultural unrest today is such a raised long, including "Intramodern" of heritage town planar with monument "multi-purpose" structures where leisure beauty contests are held to the most cultural event of the annual fiesta. Usually crowned as Miss Bambi Beauty is the most Circumscribed-looking among the contestants.

Modern television shows entertain the entire nation, inspiring theaters of provincial halls to every their own dance groups which outdance the best Western pop dancers.

In all that blossom-influenced? Where is the Filipino soul? Or could it be more Filipino than we think?

The often-repeated quote—that the Philippines lived 300 years in the convent followed by 50 years in Hollywood—encapsulates the long history of the Filipino looking outward (other than inward, thinking what is "out there" is better than what is at home.

In Sense, generations of unsound-looking Filipino architects, designs of the Penthouses, the Pyramids, and the Great Wall in mind, insist on asking the question "Is there a Filipino architecture? evidence realizing that Filipino architecture has been staring them in their faces all this time.

Quickly vanishing

...And also soaring in our town

CUTTING-edge: Innovations, a use of pre-Hispanic bamboo reinforcement called *giang* show the early existence of geometric and wicker work

Augusto F. Villalon

PRIDE OF PLACE

are our towns and cities, products of architecture, urban planning, government and socioeconomic systems, which are quickly vanishing physical manifestations of Philippine culture.

Why are they vanishing? The belief is that bigger is better, new is good, and old is bad...the rationale for demolishing outstanding old structures to be replaced by mediocre new ones.

The significance of historic neighborhoods in our cities is that they are reminders of our culture, important physical settings where the national lifestyle takes place.

Historic neighborhoods are good cultural markers. They show how people lived in times past. The evolution of neighborhoods parallels our evolution as a people.

The forms of early habitats and settlements were dictated by geography and nature, following the natural forms of mountains, riverbanks or seashores. Filipino lifestyle dictated their shapes.

Bamboo-and-cogon (thatch) houses clustered around the chieftain's residence, as seen in the pre-Hispanic nonceramics ploy of Batanes. The Mayon-like clustering of houses shaped the settlement, proof that before colonization Filipinos had a defined governance and social system.

Spanish planning

Spanish colonization wiped out the *lung* and brought people to live in well-ordered towns under heavy influence of Spanish law. Spanish town planning was based on the Roman model of a central plaza with the church, the municipal hall, the military garrison and the houses of the principalia (elite) arranged around it.

Also what has not changed is that majority of contemporary Filipinos do not appreciate our towns and cities as expressions of the Philippine ethos. Nor do they take pride in the patrimony as a collection of unique, elegant markers of Philippine identity.

No surprise

It is no surprise, therefore, that no "pride of place" exists in the Philippines. Instead, preventing the Filipino from realizing his cultural identity and from being proud of his heritage.

Heritage is seen as irrelevant to everyday life, a fetishing sicher there an unrealized asset for community and national development.

Visita, a World Heritage property is a good example of how heritage, when properly managed, drives development. Since its inception as the World Heritage List, Vigan has emerged as a major destination.

Since the city and its residents benefit from increased business brought by tourism, they work together in conserving their heritage which is not only their source of information of recognition but also a source of livelihood.

The Filipino people should be made aware that heritage is an unrealized asset; be cultural development, and heritage, when properly conserved and sensitively, is a long-term resource for community development.

We have no taken possession of our heritage, developed resources for it, and take pride in it.

There is a use for heritage after all, conservation is not an elitist concept.

Feedback is welcome at pridyplace@philstarnews.com.

WORLD Heritage City of Vigan has discovered sustainable conservation of its heritage as a resource for development.

For Filipinos today, bigger is better, new is good, and old is bad, so they demolish outstanding old structures and replace them with mediocre new ones

Good Memory. Does it Matter in the Workplace?

YOU READ an important document and at once forget all about it; you meet the dispatcher's boss walking in the hallway and you forget his name within 5 seconds; you have difficulty finding the right words sometimes to categorize your sentences during conversations. Forget one or all is all too familiar with these situations of memory loss in the office. A bad memory is such a handicap in the work place that it can literally lose your job. Or it can mean a co-worker – or worse, the boss – takes notice. The truth is, good memory makes us. If we can't recall the others, what's, whens, and where's in the world, place, we'd never be able to manage our careers.

Take for instance call center agents. The global trend towards outsourcing has led to a call center boom in the Philippines. The job itself is outsourcing, and carries with it some health risks. Working at night, dealing with difficult clients, and memorizing facts and figures can make the brain extremely vulnerable to cognitive stress. As we breathe and eat, cells produce energy, highly reactive molecules, called free radicals, are produced. Through a process called oxidation, the free radicals attempt to "rob" other molecules of their electrons. This could damage the cells (neurons) and cause memory loss.

Understandably, there is a high turnover rate among call center agents. However, there is a remedy for the memory manager that concerns by keeping fit, watching their diet, and caring for the brain through supplements that provide nutrients because of their vulnerability to free radicals. Studies have been conducted on medicinal herbs such as *Bacopa monnieri*. Published clinical studies have shown that the active ingredients *Bacosides A* and *B* on *Bacopa monnieri* are potent antioxidants which prevent free radical damage to the brain resulting in memory loss. They also promote considerable anti-anxiety properties without causing lethargy.

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BATTLE OF MANILA

Blood, fire and ruin remembered

Editor's note: The nation is marking this February the 67th anniversary of the Liberation of Manila. Historian Benito Legarda, former deputy governor for research of the Central Bank of the Philippines, relates one survivor's account of the horrors of the event, particularly the massacre of some of St. Paul's College and other civilians in Manila and Intramuros by the retreating Japanese.

By Benito Legarda Jr
Contributor

TODAY is Friday, Feb. 3, 2012—a day of Remembrance. Thankfully to Feb. 3, 1945—a day that brings to mind the stark events of a war that began not to be forgotten.

So began a vivid account of the ordeal undergone by the family of Delia "Dee" Villanueva Wells, daughter of Dr. Teofilo Villanueva.

Fateful Saturday, Feb. 3

At 8 p.m. that February day, Dr. Villanueva received a phone call to code: "The white beginning have arrived" (intent to be directly going on." The interviewee were in Manila.

At 10pm an unlikely ambroid arrived to pick up. They still heard Mass at Malate Church on Sunday, Feb. 4, led by Tuesday, American shells were landing on targets in and the church. After breaking down portions of the walls of the intervening properties, they transferred to the fourth floor of the Bringas Apartments owned by the De Leon family.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7th, Dr. Villanueva moved his prized artworks in the air-raid shelter in his garden. (The balconies were later looted, but the heavy alabaster statues remained.) Food, canned goods, cooking utensils, Chitu and bedsheets were taken to the apartment.

On the 8th, there were rumors of the Japanese herding Malates residents at their neighbors' homes. The following day, Dr. Conrado Benitez's house went up in flames, along with Encore music other houses.

"Our neighbors begin to arrive in trickles—the Montinolas, the Filmers, the Monteros, and other refugees," writes Dee.

The apartment building's ground floor became a mini-clinic where the injured were attended to by three doctors (Petronilo Villanueva, Ismael Cachuela and medical student Timoy Petronilo).

St. Paul Massacre

In the afternoon, young Tony Carlos arrived after escaping the massacre at St. Paul's College.

The nuns and refugees had been told to go to the auditorium, whose doors were then locked. The Japanese threw grenades at the victims from a hole in the ceiling, setting off pandemonium. Tony sought a grenade and hurled it against the wall, blowing open a small gap through which he escaped.

A yet great sum quartered for food on the 10th and distributed to neighbors and refugees. The Beto drove chaos from two miles.

Death of Mrs. Rocha

The artillery duel between the Japanese in Plaza Militar and Malate Church and the Americans intensified. American shells were falling closer, and, that night, hit the bungalow of Asencio Rocha.

Mrs. Rocha was brought in on a makeshift stretcher. When her injuries were examined, Dr. Villanueva "advised Isabel from the great devastation of her lower extremities." Strong Pentazocine administered morphine but she died an hour later.

Polite but firm: You will be burned

On the morning of Sunday, Feb. 11, writes Dee, "a Japanese soldier, strangely polite but otherwise determined, has come to say the apartments is going to be burned."

Dr. Villanueo ordered his family "to gulp down whatever food and there was in the kitchen," then pack the most essential things—canned goods, a few pots and pans, medicines, and Dee's swimming caps for protection against the night chill.

Moving out

On Monday morning, Feb. 12, the refugees assembled on the ground floor to climb the rosary, following the order and Gen. Jorge de Leon as he resisted the Greeks.

The raging group was an incongruous sight. Most dazzled "holy pictures and statues of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin." Knapsacks, emergency kits, small bags, and suitcases were strapped on shoulders and heads. The wife of Dr. Conrado carried a sandwich case and bird cage. (The survived the ordeal.) Some were visible injury of dreams. All eyes evasively removed light and helplessness.

When his marched almost few doors away, they were through the open gardens to the farthest still unburned house. There Dolia Lydia Limcaoco gave food and other forms of comfort and watermelon slices. Dee's companion, Lola Dominguez, found a can of Milo in her small bag, which they boarded.

In the garden with them were members of the De Leon clan: "...Jovencito Pepito, Inodoling, Betong Chong, and their younger sisters Trinidad, Lolita and Pandolfa..."

From the garden they watched two men pushing a cart piled high with logwoods hit a land mine and got blown to smithereens. Later, this would explain why there were dead bodies and burned body parts hanging grotesquely from tree branches, lamps, shrubs.

Finally, someone called out that it was his house burning. "I feel a shifting sensation in my stomach and room begin to flow."

Crossing A. Mabini

But there was no time for sentimentality.

They crossed A. Mabini Street, feared from shrub y walk and ran for their lives, and each family among the approximately 400 refugees staked out its own space, erecting tents with burned G.I. sheets.

For food, they opened a can of cocktail sausages and refugees. They lay on the sandy ramparts through the long night, hearing the sounds of battle—gunfire, explosions, rolling tanks, machine guns, rifle fire—and also those of injury and death, low and painful breathing. A De Leon Point is homestead named Mahgating died there.

Worst day

On the morning of Tuesday the 13th, they went to a well at the Rosario Beauty Salon to drink. But two dead bodies in the well made them forget their thirst. Tony Carlos told them he was going to a nearby well to wash his sore blackened toes.

Without warning, Japanese artillery barrages resumed, with American artillery responding. Where the shelling aimed, the wounded were brought in.

One of those shipping blood from a stretcher was Tony Carlos, Jorge de Leon and his sister Virginia rushed on him. Olle joined the group. Tony asked for a toasty. They all tried to remove with their fingers the shrapnel from his wounds. Where the leg, while lungs and the prayer for the dying.

Timoy Petronilo said Tony had only a 30 percent chance of survival. "Let's pray for that chance," said the doctor. The prayer was answered. Olle learned later that Tony had survived, with some shrapnel still embedded in his body.

As American sprint plans flew over head, and, mistaking the refugees' encampment for Japanese, brought artillery shells crashing down. "So here we are, dirty, hungry, exhausted and cursing the Americans to high heavens!" writes Olle.

Japanese confiscation

At 4:30 p.m., two Japanese soldiers appeared and ordered them to take their hands. A sentry had been killed nearby. But when they did was to confiscate watermelons from the surviving refugees, who were ordered not to leave as they planned to remain at 7 p.m. to look for concealed firearms. Two facing imminent death, proved devastated the Japanese.

Escape and deliverance

The elders decided that they had to leave at once, and into the eerie landscape of new unexploded bombs, they began their journey.

"The dead and wounded are scattered everywhere, telling us plainly that the Japanese have wanted every shred of human decency," writes Olle in fury and horror.

The group now numbered 40, not knowing exactly where they were going, trending for the closest outskirts of the city. They soon flew Japanese loitering a machine gun to the road top of the Rosario Apartments.

As a most comes near the Philippine Women's University, two Filipinos wearing red armbands shouted over to them to cross Taft Ave. and proceed to Paco Market.

They might be pro-Japanese Makapili, luring them to a massacre, so she and two Dr. Inocencio tried to run back. But her sister Milo was already across Taft Ave., and screamed for them to come over, which they did. Suddenly she realized, "we are safe!" Their happy cries and drinks of delight were cut short by a stern American MP who ordered them to go to the Manila Hotel.

At Paco bridge at 6:30 p.m., they were met by relieved and happy relatives. She saw a dead Japanese soldier with his body burning, looking grotesquely black and blasted has the flames producing all imaginable colors... blue and crimson, green, yellow, red and purple. When she had walked 10 meters past the body exploded, from the grenade in its belt.

They spent the night at Savemore House where the group broke up. The following morning, Gerdeneer Frame blew up. Dee's Japanese bombs planted secretly months and her father de-

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Arts envoy Boy Abunda: 'Tradition and innovation in arts and culture not enemies'

By Lorrie G. Robles
Contributor

THE 2012 Philippine Arts Festival (PAF) has for its theme "Tradisyon at Inobasyon." The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, which organizes the festival, says it seeks to foster tradition while encouraging innovation.

PAF is held every February as part of the National Arts Month.

In a press conference in Sir Boy's Pasol Residence on Feb. 3, Mr. Abunda personally and NCCA as ambassador Boy Abunda said tradition and innovation were two things that could blend together.

"Traditions and innovations are not enemies," he said. "Personally, I believe that culture is not stagnant. It evolves because it is a way of life."

Abunda added that one couldn't innovate if one didn't know one's tradition. He stressed the importance of recognizing one's roots.

"It's important to know where we came from for us to be able to appreciate where we are right now," he said.

Abunda noted that PAF was getting bigger with regions from all over the country getting into the act.

This year, PAF features different activities such as exhibits, theater plays and workshops, among others from the seven constituents of NCCA's Subcommission on the Arts.

The activities of PAF will take place in different parts of the country. Also, a group and handout awards festival will be launched during the Arts Month.

The seven committees of NCCA's Subcommission on the Arts are architecture, cinema, dance, literature, music, theater and visual arts.

PAF 2012 was officially opened on Jan. 28 at Luneta Park with a grand display of arts, parade, workshops.

SHIRLEY Halili-Cruz

Come and watch Sayaw Pinoy

By Rhia Respecia
Contributor

SAYAW PINOY is about to get bigger.

Now on its 10th year, the longest-running Arts Month flagship project organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, is aiming to acquire some 35 Philippine dance groups to participate in the event and host up audience members.

Considered as "one of the most attended, widely successful, and much anticipated event" every February, Sayaw Pinoy 2012 aims to recognize the traditional roots of Philippine dances, some quaint, perhaps, moments incredible for audiences especially in its closing pieces, and provide new and up-coming dance groups ample exposure.

Shirley Halili-Cruz, who chairs the Technical Committee on Dance and is artistic director of Quezon City Ballet Halili Cruz Ballet Company, says the dance festival also aims to grow the number of people attending such shows.

"Last year alone, with 21 dance groups and 31 performances, we had around 2,000 in attendance at each of the 10 venues," Halili-Cruz said.

In one presentation alone, the audience would usually be treated to a variety of dance forms including indigenous, ballet, modern dance, folkdance, ballet, neoclassical dance, modern jazz, contemporary and hip-hop.

Participating dance groups

Through the years Sayaw Pinoy has featured the participation of Bayanihan, the Philippine national folkdance company; Ballet Philippines; Ballet Manila, Philippine Ballet Theater, Dwight Human Power-Dance, Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, Quezon City Ballet/Halili Cruz Ballet Company, Ateneans, UP Dance Company, UE Malayuman Dance Troupe, Cornelian Dance Troupe, PSU Bishop Sterling Dance Troupe, Lalaking Bulacanian Dance Troupe, Sining Bakanteng Kapampangan Sinukwan Dance Troupe, TUP Kulturopa Dance Troupe, Next In Innovation Professional Dance Teachers of the Philippines, Anak Dwiwanggis Antonio Performing Arts, Quezon City Performing Arts, MEV Dance Company, Sining Kasalimuang Dance Troupe, Dasma 13 Dance Group, Rockstar Dance Group, Bangkit Pulay Dance Troupe, Mindanao Cultural Dance Troupe, Kalinaya Dance Company, San Carlos University Dance Troupe, St. Louis University Dance Troupe, Northwestern, PEU Dance Troupe, ESPMI, Mabinglay Dance Ensemble, Siagan, The Alon Collective, Sining-Isang Dance Troupe, and Bisayan Dance Ensemble.

"I believe it is important to create more opportunities for all dance and ballet companies and groups to get together and perform because in doing so, we learn from each other and share the beauty of our art with one another," said prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, artistic director of Ballet Manila. "We also bring a diverse, interesting and entertaining mix of dance numbers to [a wider] not-all-audience Dance in the Philippines]."

Ballet Manila's first performances in Sayaw Pinoy was when it was hardly a year old as a company. It has served and deserves an invitation to perform in Sayaw Pinoy shows.

No ordinary task

It is not that easy to hold a show in open air places where basketball courts would serve as the stage; a good sound system may not be available, and the dancers—for lack of available accommodation—sleep in bleachers or school rooms.

"I think that is what motivates Sayaw Pinoy through the years—the passion to promote arts and dance, the passion to share an event that uplifts the spirit," Cruz said. "If you don't have the audience appreciate the gesture, most effort to reach them through this program, you will be get the fatigue, the inconveniences and the difficulties. This runs especially appreciate when Sayaw Pinoy was brought to Subic, Bataan and Mabalacat in Clubhouse five years earlier."

Concerts at the Park have been held since Feb. 5 and will continue on Feb. 11 and 18 with a finale show on the 25th. The regional tours started with several places in Davao City last week and will be held simultaneously in many areas throughout the month. Feb. 6, Bukidnon State University and Central Mindanao University in Bukidnon; and Koronadal in Mindanao City, Feb. 10, Oroc Public Plaza in Iloilo City; Lucenec Multi-Purpose Hall, Aniao Public Plaza, and Pasu Market, Feb. 12, SM Iloilo City and Quezon City Circle; Feb. 13, Roxas City Sport Complex; and Mall Mabalacat, Feb. 14, Global City, Taguig; Feb. 17, Valenzuela City; Feb. 18, Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte; Feb. 19, Olongapo City; Feb. 23, Puerto Princesa City and Sorsogon; Feb. 25, Pasay; March 02, 25, Laoang City and Tayabas in Quezon; and Feb. 26, Lyceum of the Philippines in Batangas City.

Call 3272102; visit www.ncca.gov.ph. E-mail the author at rhiarespecia@gmail.com

Globe Run4Home 2012 races to Cebu

All roads lead to the Queen City of the South as Cebu becomes the official home of this year's Globe Run4Home, one of the biggest and most awaited running events in the country with the many innovations it pioneered in Philippine marathon history.

The Globe Run4Home 2012 runs to the Cebu International Convention Center on March 25, 2012 gathering not only the running community of Cebu, but also its legion of running aficionados in Manila and key cities nationwide to celebrate a common cause: help provide sustainable shelter to those in need, especially victims of Typhoon Sendong.

Globe taps previous Run4Home beneficiaries Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity Philippines to help raise funds for their housing development projects for the typhoon victims in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro respectively. Completing the roster of partner-beneficiaries are Cebu Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, a Cebu-based organization that aims to transform communities to lay biodiversity arms into becoming more effective stewards of the environment, and the Philippine Tarsier Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization that spearheads a massive campaign to save the Philippine Tarsier and preserve its habitat.

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Registration fees per category are P300 for 3K, P400 for 5K, P500 for 10K, P600 for 15K and P700 for 21K, the most affordable registration rate ever in Globe Run4Home history, making the running event more accessible to the growing running community, especially in Cebu. The registration fee entitles runners to their race shirts available in various sizes, race bib number, timing chip, and finisher's medal for the 21K category. A portion of the runners' registration fees will be donated to their beneficiary of choice to support their respective advocacies and programs.

In order to attract more participants, group runners are also encouraged to join—with a special treat. For groups of four running in the same category, they will be allowed to bring in a fifth member for free.

Join the Globe Run4Home 2012 and be part of a nationwide revolution towards inspiring hope for the less privileged families, communities, endangered species, and key biodiversity areas. Registration starts on February 1, 2012 via www.globe.com.ph/r4h or at the Paseo de Ciudad, 1st level, Ayala Center, Cebu City. Globe Run4Home 2012 is supported by Alaska, Gatorade, Suncast Natural Drinking Water, and Tiktok. Media partners are the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Cebu Daily News and Newsbytes.

CCP to mount 'La Traviata,' with Korean participation

By Pablo S. Tariman
Contributor

THE GOOD news for the opera-starved is that Verdi's "La Traviata" will be mounted at the Cultural Center of the Philippines with a Filipino lead singer on March 3.

The production is going to be a co-production with a Korean company.

Rachelle Arandia will debut as Violetta, and Arthur Espiritu, the first Filipino tenor to sing at La Scala di Milan, will also debut as Alfredo. The two sang excerpts from "Traviata" to close Oct. 8 CCP engagements last year.

Filipino Violetta-tan are few, and so too the Filipino Alfredos.

Monina Mercedes Bisidas Santiago sang it at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in the 1950s as a last-minute substitute to an indisposed Filipina soprano who lost her voice from crying over her mother who had just passed away.

I think Fides Cuyugan Asensio sang it in Bell, or probably some mezzoyes, but I have no record of this. Someone told me she sang "Addio del Passo" (from "Traviata") in the indie film "Nifio" and did pretty well.

Another "Traviata" was seen at the CCP in the "50 with Freedom Bonds Answers to the 60s" mix. The opera returned to the CCP in the early '90s with the Violetta of American soprano Denise Maria Cajoda in a controversial CCP production directed by National Artist for Theater Rolando Tinio. Her Alfredo was no other than Filipino tenor Rolyo Caballero.

Italian-born Ivanna Valenzano sang one performance of "Traviata" at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in the mid-'90s but lack of funds bounded the production.

One of the greatest Violettas of this generation—Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu—sang at the CCP in 1983 and returned in 1984 to great acclaim at the Manila Metropolitan Theater. Both American and European critics compared her to the great Maria Callas, and when she guested in a Malacañang soiree in the '80s, besides Marcos said La Miricioiu even sounded better than Callas.

Her Violetta in the US and Europe was invested in stone. She was the Violetta of José Carreras in Spain, Alfredo Kraus in Frankfurt Opera, and Placido Domingo in San Francisco Opera as their intimate substitute of soprano Ileana Cotrubas. She sang 14 performances of "Traviata" in Sydney Opera, and Australian critics were one in saying La Miricioiu had nothing to fear from both Ileana Joan Sutherland and Kiri Te Kanawa.

Now 57, La Miricioiu has not abandoned engagements that continue to baffle and charm critics.

She debuted at the New York City Opera in Verdi's "Aprigoletto" three years ago and the New York Times noted, "Nelly Miricioiu, a Romanian soprano making her house debut...sang the title role with an appealingly dark tone and impressive nuances."

In between engagements, she had televised master classes in Guildhall School of Music in London, and was also in Athens as member of the jury of the Maria Callas Grand Prix, of which she was a previous grand prize winner.

As Lady Macbeth in a concert version in London, Clare Colvin of the London Sunday Express wrote of her: "As the dominant side of Lady Macbeth, Romanian soprano Nelly Miricioiu was not going to allow a concert performance to impede some full-blooded acting as she marshaled through the violins to acquired chillers, reading Macbeth's letter. Verdi envisaged the role as requiring a singing actress of extraordinary character and lifelessness, a prima donna to her fingertips, like the bill."

The most acclaimed Filipino Alfredo abroad was no other than Dondel Gonzaga although several tenors tried the part, namely Josel Velasco, Frankie Asensio, Rolyo Caballero.

As I recall the great Violettas and Alfredos of our time, I certainly will look forward to the Violetta of Gremalina, the Alfredo of Espiritu, and Germaine of Andrew Fernando on March 3 at the CCP Main Theater.

Here and there

The announcement of the Credit Grand Luis Quirino Lim Manila Elimbi's one-night-only concert on March 17 in this paper caused a virtual stampede of early ticket buyers at the Tuber Pavilion (tel. 891-9999).

I guess a concert featuring the superstars of classical music and dance with the country's only reigning Broadway star is a tough act to follow.

Her three best cue in the March 17 lineup—for starspotters, they can still see Lizzie in solo recital at Holy Angel University in Angeles City on March 22 and Cebu City on March 27. Her provincial solo program: Chopin's Polonaise-Fantaisie in A Flat Major, Op. 61; Three Mazurkas, Op. 56; Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante in E Flat Major, Op. 22; and Liszt's Miserere du "Trouvaore" de Verdi's Paraphrase de Concert. (Call 82-7281132 or 0908-3184270.)

The chamber music treat not to be missed on Feb. 25 is the team up of cellist Wilfredo Pasamba, violinist Clare Strelitz and pianist Mary Anne Espina in Philsmlife Theater. Program includes Kennedy's Piano Trio No. 1 and Chausson's Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet.

SOPRANO Rachelle Gonzalez and tenor Arthur Espiritu during their last engagement at the CCP

Cellist Pasamba in chamber concert at Philamlife

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"Alon ng Buwan," from a centuries-old dance form, pangalay

Ballet Manila ends 16th season with 'Lab Ko 'To'

BALLET MANILA wraps up its 16th season with the ballet gala "Lab Ko 'To," a collection of world premieres by choreographers Meia Lorna H. Augustus Damian and Manuel Molera, combined with a classical favorite, "Esmeralda" Pas de Deux (from "The Venetian Carnival"), and a touch of the exotic in "Shaw, coc," an international award-winning piece by BM choreographer Gerardo Francisco.

Presented by the Manila Broadcasting Company, Aliw Theater and theBarrows, "Lab Ko 'To" goes on stage on Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 18, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; and Feb. 19, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

"Loyal fans of Ballet Manila always find something different in our end-of-season productions, as we usually wrap up with new and refreshing collaborations with Filipino artists. This year, they can expect choreographies highlighting the masterful skills and talents of our ballerinas and danseurs," says Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, the company's artistic director and principal dancer.

AUGUSTUS Damian's "The Last Poem," a dance-drama

"Alon ng Buwan" in Lorna's usual epic piece that draws inspiration from the centuries-old Filipino dance form, pangalay. The featured seven pairs of dancers were made special sessions with indigenous Filipino dance expert Raymund "Samal" Manzola, just to get the hand gestures right.

Damian presents "The Last Poem," a dance-drama where the dancers epitomize athleticism but at the same time treat project being sick and dying.

"It is a fairly simple adagio, but needs the most sensitive of partnership," iconic Elizalde, who admits being brought to tears by this number several times during rehearsals.

After his moving "Love beyond Goodbye" set to Josh Groban's tragic love song, Jose Molina now challenges ballet Manila through Pisanello's tangos in "Buenos Aires."

"Lab Ko 'To" has Bank of Singapore and Star City as season sponsors, with special thanks to Johnn Rose and Ralph's Wines and Spirits.

Call Ticketworld at 891 9999; visit www.ticketworld.com.ph; SM Tickets at 470 2222, www.smtickets.com.ph; Ballet Manila at 4000892 or 525 5907, info@ballet manila.com.ph.

Filfest of Alabang honors Angel Peñna

THE FILFEST Cultural Foundation, in cooperation with Ayala Land and SMDC will open its fifth season, "Southern Exposure," with a special concert honoring the legendary composer and jazz composer and musician Angel Matias Peña, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., at the Ayala Hall in Alabang.

Double-hander Peña was born in 1921 and began his musical career as a guitarist. From the '30s to the '50s he played with the Teen Dean Orchestra, Federico Elizalde, Leo Molina and the Executives Band. He also jammed with Ahumbol Adulyadej, King of Thailand.

In the '50s, he was accepted as a double-bassist of the prestigious Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, where he performed until his retirement in the late '90s.

He is a musicologist-arranger and an award-winning composer whose works include Ignore Rhapsody, Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra, Raghupatiraghava Jazz Fantasy, and the unusual fusion piece, "Pas Kailan Pa Man."

"A Tribute to the Maestro" will showcase selected Peña compositions which include the premiere performances of "Manalig Ka, Sinta," with lyrics by Reuyan de Leon and A Piece for Cello and Piano and "Filipino Concertino," a quartet for violin, cello, piano and double bass.

Also to be featured are his notable works for jazz orchestra such as "Peace Revised," "Bello," "Café Espresso" and "Cuba."

Featured artists in the special concert are cellist Renato Lucas, violinist Lisa Medina, tenor Jonathan Kua, pianist Sheryl Sandra Dee, bassist Bartolo Cua, the Reading Guitar Trio and the Ateneo Symphony Manilenos. Filipino Big Band led by its music director Abel Valleza.

Tickets to this special concert are at P1,000 and P500 with a 50-percent discount for students with a valid ID. Seniors and season subscribers get a 20-percent discount. Call 5826323 or 0917 6177261.

ANGEL Peña

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BAYANIHAN

Bayanihan at Manila Hotel

BAYANIHAN, THE national folk-dance company of the Philippines returns to Manila Hotel for lunch and dinner shows on Feb. 21 as part of a festival series.

The ancient folk stories festivals from around the Philippines captured in a 20-30 minute performance. For February it will feature the Pasungbanga Flower Festival.

The Pasungbanga Festival is a month-long festival in Siquijor said to be the city's biggest, drawing local and international tourists. It showcases many floral floats and native dances. Pasungbanga is a Kinaharayo term for "a season of blooming."

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HUTTE — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF MAJOR

TALDOK — BY MARIA CECILIA

ASTROGRAPH

BY ISAAC R. BONE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and answers at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

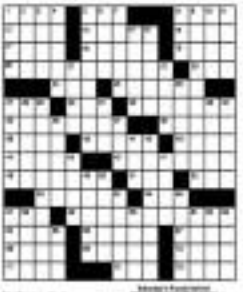
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	1	4	3	6	5	8	9	7
3	6	5	8	9	7	2	1	4
8	9	7	2	1	4	3	6	5
5	3	1	6	7	2	9	4	8
6	4	2	9	3	8	5	7	1
9	7	8	5	4	1	6	3	2

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

6		7		2	8		5	3
5			6			1		
	9				1			2
8		1					3	
9				5				1
	6					9		4
1			8				6	
		4			9			8
3	8		7	1		2		9

Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Stephen King turns back the clock on JFK assassination

By Rudi S. De Vera

The newest book from the horror master follows a precarious trip back in time to try and save JFK

AGES AND OTHERS as a central conceit in fiction, time travel is often either treated reluctantly or as an overarching device for resetting to the Jurassic Era or the like for sure, but put it in the hands of the master of horror Stephen King and time travel becomes both powerful and unexpectedly poignant.

In "11/22/63" (Scribner, New York, 2011, 849 pages), King takes on both American history and one man's now, second history. It's a classic case of King taking an utterly ordinary turn and dropping him in the most unusual of circumstances, an Everyman meeting the supernatural.

Jake Epping is a high-school English teacher who discovers a hole in time. It allows him to travel back to Sept. 9, 1958—and only that date. You cannot go forward or back; it always returns to that date.

King describes and explains time travel in a manner that is both believable and extraordinarily painful. Epping can go back, but every time he returns to the past, time interrupts itself.

Now he has been left with a mission, to travel back to 1958 and then wait in the past for five years until the tender date of Nov. 22, 1963, when Jake—now known as the real estate agent George Amberson—must begin his campaign by saving President John F. Kennedy from assassination in Dallas, Texas.

Hanging around in the past is no picnic, though. King seems to get all the details right, giving 1958 and its subsequent years a feeling of authenticity. As well as creating a hero King makes staying in the past and waiting an ordeal instead of an amazing thing.

Jake—who speaks so much time in the past he feels more like George—has to put up with countless challenges as well as overcome his plan to get to Dallas in time to undo the assassination. He never really asks himself if someone should actually do that.

Like King's other recent long work, 2009's "Under the Dome," there is lingering feeling that this book may be too long—but then once realized, in this case, that's precisely the point. Time travel isn't for the faint.

King unleashes the real antagonist of "11/22/63," and it's not Lee Harvey Oswald. It's time itself. "Because the past doesn't want to be changed. It fights back when you try. And the bigger the potential change, the harder it fights."

It's amazing how King has constructed all his novels in what fans call the King-verse but only does the fictional town of Derry, Maine, figure prominently in this book, but there are also references to the events in King's disturbing 1986 novel "It," perhaps King's best, most ambitious and actually most terrifying novel.

This work is no doubt, either, "11/22/63" features King writing hardly about heavy things and his prose continues to beguile as is terrifies: "For a moment, everything was clear, and when that happens you see that the world is barely there at all. Don't we all know it?" says Jake. It's a perfectly balanced combination of desire and reckon pretending to be schools and cops, a dreamlock thing beneath a mystery glass we call life... A cadence of horror and loss surrounding a single-lighted stage where mortals dance in darkness of the dark."

And that is also a pretty accurate description of "11/22/63," of Stephen King doing that thing he does so well.

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It's 11 minutes before noon and you're wondering what you and your officemates will have for lunch. You want something that's filling and great tasting but wouldn't burn a hole in your pocket. You looked out the window and saw the familiar jolly face of your favorite fastfood from afar and as if right on cue, you instantly had this craving for your favorite Jollibee Burger Steak.

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Other Always Affordelicious treats that are available from Mondays to Fridays in all Jollibee stores nationwide are the Shanghai Rolls and the Beef with Mushroom for only P59 each (solo) and P49 (with regular drink).

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*Prices may vary in selected stores

Two F. Sionil José books to be presented at PowerBooks, Makati

"THE FEET OF JUAN Bacnang," a novel, and "Cleanings from a Life in Literature," a collection of essays, by F. Sionil José will be presented at PowerBooks (ground) 4, Makati, 4 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 11. Ramon Ramos, National Book Store founder, will be the guest of honor.

"Cleanings" are public lectures delivered by the author during the last decade. It is published by the University of Santo Tomas Press. UST Press publisher Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo will make the presentation.

Juan Bacnang, the main character in the new novel, is born illegitimate in a village. Ironically, his birthright is recognized. He finishes Law, becomes a prosecutor, approachable, a lover of the good life and women. He also comes out to be an honorary Ilocano epicurean and a canny politician. His metamorphosis is in itself a story familiar to many Filipinos.

Those who read the author's earlier short story, "Ulalim," and were puzzled by its unusual plot and ending will find that story-unravels Bonifacio in this novel. Its denouement is palpable for "The Feet of Juan Bacnang," also illustrates vividly how case power operates in this country.

Already known internationally for his searing criticisms of inequity and injustice, Sionil José's 14th novel doubles even more thoroughly the deep and murky ways and wherefores of the Filipino condition. Readers will surely recognize the "barrio mucho" as the entire Hacienda Dorotea.

Sionil José's "Ines," a novel about a Spanish mestiza is captivating.

Call Soledad/sir at 2541666 or 2543068.

PEN holds literature-teaching workshop in Bohol

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists) will hold "For Love of the Word: Workshops on Teaching Philippine Literature in High School and College" on Feb. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Holy Name University, Jasaan Campus, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

PEN writers and professors of literature Merlie Alunan and Steven Patrick Fernandez will serve as resource speakers/facilitators.

This event is part of the series of workshops on teaching literature organized by PEN in selected regions of the country. It seeks to enhance the skills of literature teachers in both secondary and tertiary levels, especially on teaching regional writing by Filipino authors.

The previous workshops were held at the Eastern University, Manila, University of San Agustin-Iloilo, University of Cebu, University of the Philippines-Baguio, and Negs College Foundation.

This workshop is co-hosted by Holy Name University and supported by PEN International in UK and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

For inquiries and preregistration, please contact Philippine PEN at [redacted] Andrews; 533 Pedro Guevara St., Ermita, Manila; e-mail: philippenpen@yahoo.com; mobile: +63917-5267491; or visit the PEN website, https://www.philippenpen.ph for updates.

UE celebrates Philippine Arts Festival 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF the East (UE) is celebrating the Philippine Arts Festival 2012 for the whole month of February with culinary and arts shows at the UE Manila and Caloocan campuses.

Now taking place, until Feb. 29, at the UE Manila's Bahay Laya Lobby, is a painting exhibit, "Tradisyon at Imbensyon," featuring select works by faculty and students of the UE College of Fine Arts (CFA). The exhibit is also a tribute to the late college secretary and professor Lito de Guzman.

CFA is also holding an interschool "Still Pen Art on the Apex Painting Competition," on Feb. 23. It was Dr. Guzman, who died last December, who popularized the use of ball pens as an art medium.

The annual CFA Student Arts Exhibit will be on Feb. 20-29. The interior design students' "Ghosts and Boys" exhibit 2012, will also be on Feb. 20-29. These will be held at the Tan Yan Kee Auditorium Building in UE Caloocan.

Dance Fusion is a dance group competition launched recently by the UE Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). Semifinals is on Feb. 8, 6 a.m., at the historic UE Theater in Manila. Grand finals is on Feb. 29, 2 p.m.

The UE Glimpsaman Dance Troupe will perform in the Concerto Park on Feb. 26, 6 p.m.

The UE Drama Company will stage "Bonbon Line Bowlahan" on Feb. 27, 2 p.m. The internationally acclaimed UE Chorale will hold a concert, "Himig ng Kasiyahan ng Glimpsan," Feb. 29, 2 p.m., at the UE Theater.

Call 527-0424, 7350475 loc. 4013, log on to www.ue.edu.ph.

Philippine-German culture fest this February

WITH THE RECENT signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent for Cultural Relations between Germany and the Philippines, the German Embassy Manila has launched a bigger Philippine-German Month 2012.

"The moment we fulfill any country's commitment to enhance cultural ties with the Philippines, as stated in the recently signed Declaration," said Ambassador Joachim Holdorf of the German Embassy.

The Joint Declaration of Intent for Cultural Relations was signed by Federal Minister Guido Westerwelle and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario in late Nov. 7 in Berlin.

Philippine-Germany Month began last Feb. 3 at Paco Park with performances by vocalist Emily Palermo accompanied by guitarist Ferdinand Medina, and the Ilocandera Filipina—an up-and-coming guitarist propagating Ilocano playing in the Philippines.

On Feb. 10, a culture is Back with pianist Alejandro Consolacion II accompanied by Dante Tony Marquez.

Soprano Minerva Padilla and pianist Zaldy Corpuz will perform Beethoven Feb. 11, with the classical pieces of German composers Mozart, Beethoven, interspersed with compositions of Filipino legends F. Ferrer-Santos and E. Cuenco.

On Feb. 24, world-renowned pianist Lyonne Kligsbo will be performing German classics at Paco Park.

Concert at the Park starts at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

On Feb. 25, chamber musician Sulfa Alor Arena will perform at the Philamlife Auditorium.

Arena has had an extensive concert career as a musician—performing as a soloist for the Berlin Symphony Orchestra (1986-1991), playing with famous conductors such as Rudi Marias, Herbert Blomstedt and Neville Marriner, and touring in various European, American and Asian countries. He also has been a juror for several international competitions.

He is currently the chair of the International Penta Liszt Piano Competition, artistic director of the Summers Music Academy Schloss Hambuhren, and president of the Liszt-Arbeard of Music Division.

For tickets and more information, contact the Goethe Institute at 638-8322 or 8917-5697/8983.

Award-winning German films will be shown this February for cinema in the Open Air at Bind Park, every Saturday and Sunday, 7 p.m.

Visit https://www.manila.diplo.de/.

Comic play 'Leading Ladies' is Rep's Valentine offering

From page E1

original Shakespearean practice of male actors playing female parts.

Director, besides being an "overseas English actor," says that part of his preparation for the part of Meriles was "hanging out in Makati."

Further complications arise when the two men fall for two real ladies in the house of Florence, the buxom aide Audrey and Florence's niece, the sweaty Meg, shyly-to played by Gladonia Domingo. Chief of Regis "Sleeping Beauty") and Bing by Cris Villanueva.

Other cast members include Annie Wilson, Hans Schiavon and Oliver Union.

Good time

"By staging a play like this, we would like people to know that they can go to the theater and have fun, to release tension. Theater is something you can enjoy," says Williams.

"Hopefully, making people laugh is better than making people cry," he adds. "But with Leading's material, we just stay truthful to the characters and the rest is just suggestive and technical issues of blocking and rhythm. Hope the play and I promise you a really good time in the theater."

"Leading Ladies" follows the misadventures of Leo Bill, a Fool, Ludwig's first hit play, which was staged by the show Uriel Waldorf at a time when Ludwig was still an unknown American playwright whose plays were being staged in disorders' basements and, in his own words, "other off-off-off-Off-Broadway venues."

A Harvard-educated lawyer with a passion for playwriting, Ludwig has since become one of the most prolific and award-winning playwrights on Broadway. London's West End and all over the world.

"Leading Ladies" runs Feb. 10-March 4 with shows on Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m., and matinee shows on Saturdays and Sundays, 3:30 p.m., at Onstage, Greenhill 3, Mehalel City.

Call Repertory Philippines at 3719926, 3719945, e-mail info@repertoryph.net; and Ticketworks at 891-9999.

Comic play 'Leading Ladies' is Rep's Valentine offering

By Toni V. De Jesus
Core Buzz

AFTER THE SUCCESS of last year's hilarious "Shakespeare in Hollywood" (written by American playwright-director Jim Ludwig), Repertory Philippines is staging another Ludwig romcom, "Leading Ladies," as its second offering in 2012.

Directed by Michael Williams, "Leading Ladies" is about two rush-strapped Shakespearean actors, Leo Clark and Jack Gable, who go to use their acting skills to shape an old, cultured dying aristocrat named Floridora.

Leo is played by Raphael Arnaiz.

James Stacey (recently seen in Rep's "Peter Pan" as the pirate, Cat in the Hat in "Seussical," King in "Sleeping Beauty").

Jack is played by Rep regular Topper Fabregas, while Floridora is portrayed by veteran actress Anne Etnarsaru.

Making ends sweet

The setting is York, Pennsylvania, in 1958. The ailing millionaire Floridora puts out a newspaper ad looking for her "long-lost young relatives named Max and Steve" to give them their inheritance.

Jack and Leo are "fortune-hunting weather actors," trying to make ends meet playing "Scenes from Shakespeare" in a local venue called Manor Lodge retreat in which country a Dutch-American settlement in Pennsylvania.

They decide to kick poverty by breeding the biggest "ass" to clean scary lives—playing Max and Steve to get the multimillion-dollar inheritance before the real relatives of Floridora show up.

What happens next is something like a Tito, Vic and Joey twist. Max and Steve turn out to be ladies named Sloane and Stephanie, the setting is moved as a challenge than a setback, Jack and Leo, with their "treasure of clothes" and makeup kits, dress these lady and attempt to become, respectively, Sloane and Stephanie.

They are Shakespearean actors, anyway, and the plan somehow also parallels the original.

JAMES Stacey, Dianina Ocampo, Topper Fabregas and Cris Villanueva

SM City North Edsa is Pra's Hall of Fame Awardee

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy and the SM City North EDSA staff are shown with the Philippine Retailers Association Hall of Fame Award in the Shopping Center Large Category during the recent 19th PRA Outstanding Filipino Retailers and Shopping Centers of the Year Awards Night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It is shown with SM Supermalls Executive Assistant Jeffrey Lim (third from right) and (from left) National Leasing Manager Wendy Oliver, VP for Leasing Rina Pilar, Regional Operations Manager Architect Nonie Bacani, VP for Operations Ariston Tan, Mall Manager Marvin Angeles, and AVP for Marketing Judy Ibarra.

The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) recently inducted SM City North EDSA into its Hall of Fame during its recent Outstanding Retailers Awarding Ceremonies held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

During the same event, SM City North EDSA was awarded as the Outstanding Shopping Center of the Year in the Large Category for the second year in a row.

The PRA, the country's most prestigious national organization of retailers and service providers, gave the highest honor to retailers and shopping centers every year that have sponsored success in terms of growth and ethical practice. Recognized as a paragon of genuine partners in nation-building, the PRA values the pulse and distinction as the "Voice and Voice of the Philippine Retail Industry."

For the past 5 consecutive, a total of 10, Quality awards drawn from close to 100 nominees for their outstanding business practices that epitomized excellence in their business.

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy received the awards from PRA President Benito Lim together with SM Supermalls President Annie Garcia and the SM City North EDSA team. Vice President for Operations Jesus Chua, Regional Operations Manager Teresa Pamati, AVP for Marketing Judy Ibarra, and Mall Manager Marvin Angeles.

At 425,000-square meters, SM City North EDSA is today the largest mall in the Philippines and is among the largest in the world.

It is also SM's first mall opening in Metro Manila in the midst of rumors of financial and economic crisis. SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. welcomed visitors over the shopping center development in the US financial centers and standards in his vision that this could be emulated in the Philippines. And he did—big time.

The original mall had a gross floor area of 120,000. And like a cat that keeps on growing, a Cascade Plaza and an Annex were added to the original Dry Center in 1994 and 1999, respectively.

Within its high- and mid-level stores, specialty restaurants, cyberzones (wifi), and a bowling center, the 90,000-square meter Annex complex is a one-stop mall of shopping and entertainment.

The mall's redevelopment began with the opening in the Block 4 mall, the tallest and highest point with the spectacular Skyway, added Annex in 2008 and the Sky Garden in 2009.

The Cascade Plaza has been transformed into an Interior Zone and SM City North EDSA continues to be a work in progress with the renovation of the City Center and the development of the Block 1 mall.

SM City North EDSA has also been an area in tremendously athletic gaining back to the Best Basketball Palace 2000s. SM's Dr. Adelio Mall in Cebu, which was also recognized as a friendlier, safer, and more comfortable environment for persons with disabilities in the expansion through its installation of special chairs (PWD facilities, training programs for its tenants and employees, and awards like Photography with a Difference, Most Outstanding Mall Employee Awards, Outstanding Employee Awards, Outstanding Employer Council on Disability Affairs as well as different PWD organizations. SM has made significant strides in making its malls barrier free and more friendly and for persons with disabilities.

Likewise as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, SM City North EDSA, both its tenants in Shop Sapporo Dining Cubicles in City is partnering with Edward Barbiga.

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy conducted a ceremony where each family received a new home. Overwhelmed by the joy of the recipients, Mr. Hans decided to extend the initial campaign and create an additional 50 by SM Village Loakan for 100 families. The campaign not only organized the families who have received homes, but also allowed the community to flourish into a safer area. It has since been converted into a successful, fully functioning community.

SM City North EDSA has also received numerous industry marketing and corporate social responsibility awards including prestigious international awards like the Intergational Council of Shopping Centers Gold Award in the Marketing Category for its Taken Summer Campaign in 2010; the ICSC Foundation Gold Award for its project with Operation Smile in 2011; and the Reader's Digest's Mult. Trusted Brand Gold Award in the Mall Category in 2011.

ANG HUBAD NA KATOTOHANAN

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DWLS	9.40
DWKY	5.50

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FM STATIONS	AUDIENCE SHARE
LOVE RADIO	18.2
YES FM	9.9
EASY ROCK	6.5
DWRR	5.0
DWKY	5.0

No.1 No.2

SOURCE: [illegible]

SALAMAT PO!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emme G. Velarde

HEARD

PAULA Abdul, after her exit from the British reality show "The X Factor," created by her "dear friend" Simon Cowell: "I've learned through my longevity in this industry that business decisions often times override personal considerations." AP

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Oscar film nominees sag at tills

NO MATTER how you slice the numbers for the Film Academy's best-picture nominees this year, they look the same: Dismal.

The nine nominees, according to the charts from boxofficemojo.com, have taken in about $546 million at the domestic box office to date, down 58 percent from the $1.234 billion that had been taken in by this point by 10 nominees last year.

(The numbers don't change much even if you winnow last year's crop to nine—"Winter's Bone," the smallest 2011 nominee in box-office terms, took in a statistically insignificant $6.5 million at this point and doesn't change the numbers much when eliminated.)

If you count just the films currently in release, this year's contenders have taken in about $362.9 million, down about 28.2 percent from the $505.8 million that had been accumulated at this point by nominees still in release in 2011.

Counting just the seasonal releases—movies, like "Moneyball" this year, or "The Social Network" from last year's nominees, that were released in September or later, when awards season more or less begins—the numbers is a bit worse. The 2011 batch has taken in $306.4 million, down 30.6 percent from $389 million from last year's.

Best among the seasonal releases at this point last year was "True Grit," which had taken in $149.3 million. This year's best seasonal hit was "War Horse," down 59 percent with $59.6 million. The box-office leader among best-picture nominees last year was "Toy Story 3," with $415 million in domestic ticket sales. This year, topping is "The Help," with $169.6 million, or 59 percent less.

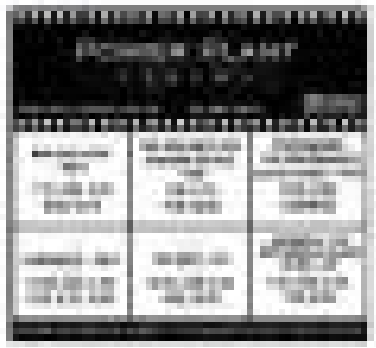
"Hugo," a drama released by Martin Scorsese, had taken in $50.7 million by now. This year "The Descendants," a drama released by Fox Searchlight, has taken in 33.2 percent less, or $30.6 million.

Once producers may want to give fans an gay hero Billy Crystal an even 10 minutes, the audience has voted not the movies. New York Times News Service

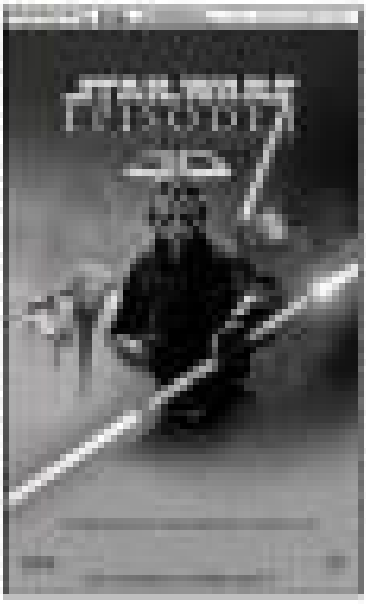
2012's top 9

- "The Artist"
- "The Descendants"
- "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"
- "Hugo"
- "Midnight in Paris"
- "The Help"
- "Moneyball"
- "War Horse"
- "The Tree of Life"

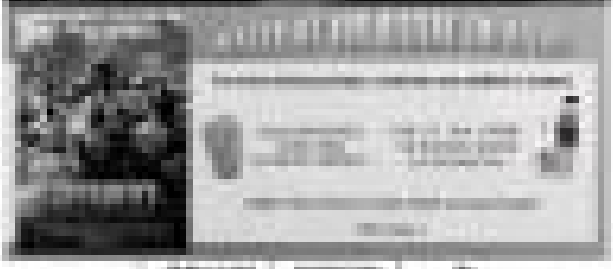
Damage control in show busine



Audience on Demand



CINEMA



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ng bawat awit at damhin ang himig
ng puso sa likod ng bawat birit!

AfternoonPRIME

BROKEN VOW

Unawain ang mga pusong
hindi makapagpatawad
at yakapin ang kanilang
mga pangakong
maaaring hindi matupad.

AfternoonPRIME

ALICE BUNGISNGIS and her wonder walis

Tuklasin ang hiwagang dala ng kanyang bawal bungisngis
dahil kapag siya'y inyong natitig, ilyak kayong ilbig!

Dahil buwan natin ngayon, mga Kapuso!
ONE LOVE. ONE HEART. ONE NATION.

HAPPY KAPUSO MONTH

ENTERTAINMENT

Milking the Claudine-Carmina issue

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

THE ADVERTISING agency that produced a Lactum TV commercial has issued an official statement refuting what I wrote in my column last Jan. 30 about the tension that transpired between product endorsers **Claudine Barretto** and Carmina Villaroel during the shoot.

Wow, that's the agency euphemism for it. Strange how quick they were to react. In the first place, I didn't mention any product. For all they know, Claud and Mina may have another endorsement together.

Lactum, the Milk or the Guilt?

It's a close case of damage control, which is understandable. In advertising, image is everything. They're just doing their job, and I am doing mine.

I didn't lambast their products. Neither did I go Claudi Mina bashing. I just told it like it was.

Insiders know about Claud's quirks on the set but I'd rather not go into details. Artists are entitled to their quirks. So be it.

CLAUDINE Barretto

Twitter haters

As expected, Claud's supporters are waging war against me on Twitter. Fanatics are fanatics. Even those his series has to learn to live with that.

After I interviewed Claud in Kalibo last January, I cleared up the issue behind the bank withdrawal controversy involving her and husband Raymart Santiago and the rumors about their shaky marriage in a previous column. Some fans don't bother to acknowledge positive write-ups about their idol. On the other hand, they overreact when something undesirable is written.

I've worked hard to earn my readers' respect. I don't write for some FB fans and tweet up the trash. I am a true child of show biz; my mom didn't raise me to concoct stories.

If the story was completely baseless, why go to great lengths to clarify it? Of course they have to protect their endorsers! Who am I compared to a big company like theirs? But I won't give them the pleasure of bullying me. I stand my ground.

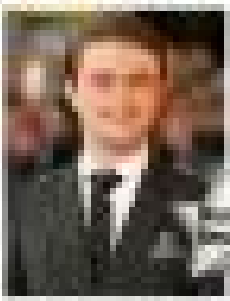
To the people behind Lactum: Sorry. I'm lactose intolerant. Go ahead and milk the issue for all it's worth.

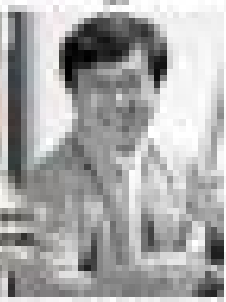
'Katy' auditions

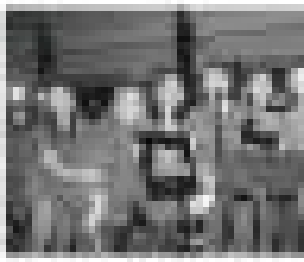
Auditions for the musical "Katy," by Ryan Cayabyab and Jose Javier Reyes, will be held 10 a.m. today at the Spotlight Arthaus Center, Shaw Corporation Bldg., 122 Jupiter St., Makati. This extravaganza may yet be the biggest Filipino musical of 2012. Call 896-8888.

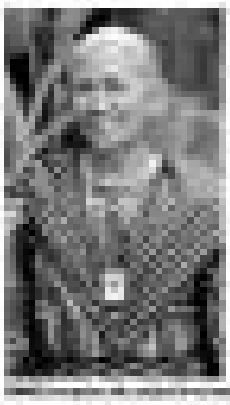
(E-mail the author or tweeting: @dollyannecarvajal)

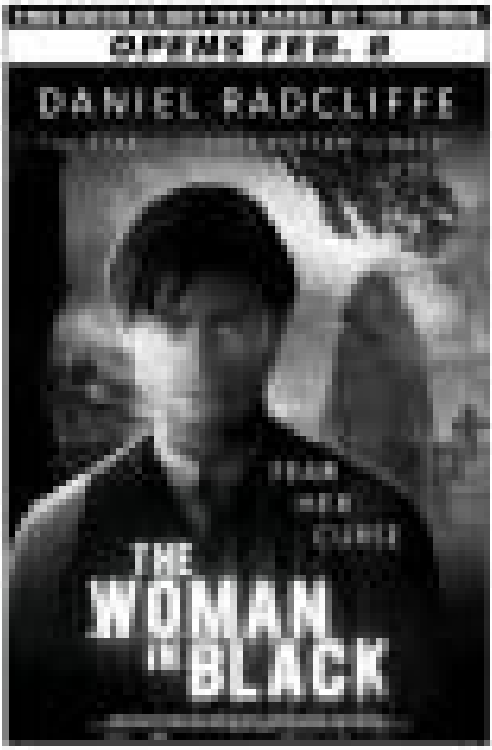
Daniel Radcliffe admits he was drinking while f







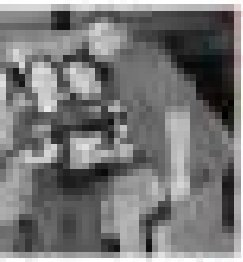


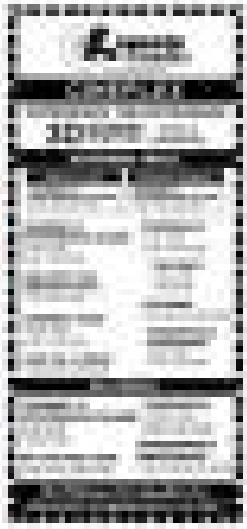


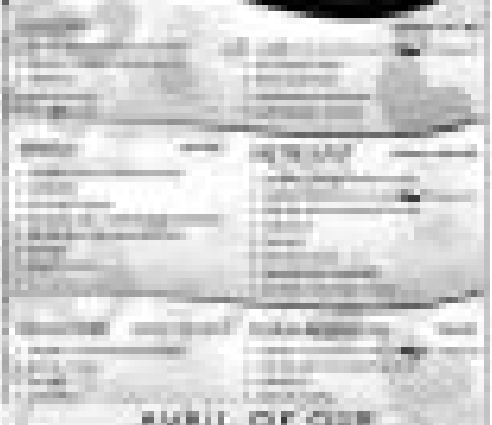
The 'Bourne' education

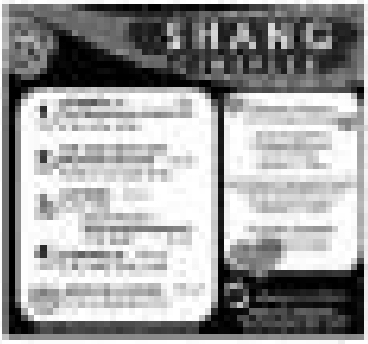
What Pierce is learning from the Hollywood regulars

ilming 'Harry Potter'









No more house dresses, please

By Marinel R. Cruz

VETERAN actress Toasi Tomas admitted that she turned down two TV projects because it required her to play "doctor wearing" characters who are "poor" and "oppressed."

Tomas said she preferred a role that allowed her to wear fancy clothes, specifically those created by her son Bobin, a successful fashion designer based in the United States.

"He said he wanted to see me wearing something glamorous on the small screen for a change," she told Inquirer Entertainment, noting that she played down-and-out roles in her last three projects with GMA-7—"Noah," "Banga" and "Agimat: Ang Mga Alamat ni Ramon." "Our prayers were answered when the character Dodia Alkira was offered to me."

Tomas was referring to the rich widow, Alkira delaVilla, in the teen Kapamilya afternoon drama "Mundo Man Ay Magsawa" directed by Jeffrey Jeturian and Bechie del Carmen and featuring Enda Valdez, Empress Schuck, Ejay Falcon and Nikki Gil.

During a recent media gathering at ABS-CBN's Dolphy Theater in Quezon City, Tomas, a single parent for 13 years, couldn't help but talk about how proud she was of Bobin.

Gifted child

Tomas described her son, now 34, as a gifted child who started painting at age 7. Bobin, who graduated with a degree in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, had his first art exhibit at 14.

Shortly after college, Bobin was hired by the advertising firm Ace Saatchi & Saatchi as an art director. "He worked as a copywriter, too," said Tomas. "He has a gift for words, which he probably got from me. Two years later, he asked me: Mom, can I do fashion design?"

In 2001, Bobin took a year-long course at the Parsons the New School of Design in New York. "That's where Carrie Klein and Donna Karan graduated from," the proud mom said. "This gave him the opportunity to work in America. He apprenticed with designers Anne Sui and Valentino Garavani and got to work with supermodels Naomi Campbell and other big names in fashion."

Bobin then landed a job as a designer's personal assistant. Tomas related. "He bought batteries and zippers and lugged his boss' attaché case, but he got to look at all the dresses," she said.

Top designer

His son's biggest break, according to Tomas, was signing up as an Asian designer for the Intimo Exp and Old Navy. "Halalimpapaalayan na siya dyan (again)." the proud mom added.

Another feather in Bobin's cap was being named one of the Top 14 designers at the recent 2011 Philippine Fashion Week.

Recently, Bobin signed up as a designer in Bloomingdales New York. "For the first time," Tomas said, "may Filipino na makatapak dito."

TEAM: Tomas with son Bobin, US-based fashion designer

Salamat po sa isang taong pangunguna.

January-December 2011

RANK	RADIO STATION	AUDIENCE SHARE
1	DZMM	39%
2	DZBB	23%
3	DZRH	13%

Source: Nielsen Mega Manila Radio Audience Measurement(RAM)
(Monday-Sunday, total day)

DZMM 25 SILVERADYO
DZMM TeleRadyo

Salamat po sa 25 taong patuloy na pagtitiwala.

U wants to hear from your kids

LEARNING Inquirer would love to know about the things you know! If you are 7-12 years old, email your photo with your beloved to [address]. Don't forget to tell us your name, age and address.

Editor Chuks Bonoli-Formoso

LEARNING

Email: [email] ■ Facebook: Inq Learning ■ Website: [URL]

Life is just beginning
for Mary's boys and girls

ONE morning in December, more than a thousand students of Sisters of Mary School Boys town and Girltown in Silang, Cavite, sat upright and properly as fitted to not one but two very important professional speakers.

The first was no less than the Ethan Allen Executive himself, Hon. Arnie Castro. The second, United States Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr.

The education secretary, on chairman and a former professor of De La Salle University, ordered the graduates to rest the night.

In his message, on the other hand, the US ambassador told, "Whatever you do, wherever you go, come back. And if you can't come back, give back."

The Sisters of Mary have combined the commencement exercises of their high school with the graduation rites of the SOM Technical Education Institute's third batch of students.

SOM, which was founded by Msgr. Aberdeen Schumacher in 1985, has served as both school and home for these graduates who came from poor families. The congregation now counts similar charity programs in Davao, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil and Honduras.

[URL] H2

US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. addresses "a thousand young new disciples of redemption" at the SOM graduation. Top: Education Secretary Armin Luistro

'This school healed the paralysis in my soul'

By Jerald O. dela Cruz

(Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the speech delivered by Ms. Delia Uraz, valedictorian of the Class of 2011, Sisters of Mary-Girltown.)

THE SIMPLE and sole question fill our hearts and minds to day. The fulfillment of a dream fills our spirits.

We were one, a thousand, strong new disciples of redemption in a world burdened by poverty, misery and pride. We found fulfillment in the selfless dedication of compassionate hearts that raised our hopes even in desperation, and we have emerged like champions for we have the best results in our education of beloved sister Mister!

We are also beginning to feel homesick that we will be leaving soon this home. But somehow, this paradise that has nursed the wounds of our misfortunes and the pain of our sensitive, and [unbalanced] the victim of our struggles.

"THE SCHOOL healed our life so our dreams' spirits."

I feel my brothers' and sisters' impatience to finish their life stories that gave meaning to this event. And I cannot help but share my own. I was in Grade 4 when tragedy struck. My father met a terrible accident that [your first] his job as a tomato chef. Their kind has capacity to provide [our achiever] his dream for the family.

We had to submit to our paralyzing truth—a [broken] father. I realized life was tough as I and the rest of the family needed you fingers to the house to survive.

Mother had to carry the burden of providing for the family. The eldest son worked as a bus conductor. My other brother stopped schooling. I, the youngest child, collected and sold bottles, plastics and other junk in school. I had to pass up most childhood adventures to do household chores and to earn a living and save for my tuition.

THE SCHOOL H2

Passionate dreamers never quit

By Darwin Deciado O. Dela Santos

(Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the speech delivered by Ms. Delia Santos, valedictorian of the Class of 2011, Sisters of Mary-Girltown.)

OUR graduation is a dream come true for me, my fellow graduates and most specially our parents.

Finishing secondary education was a big dream, even an impossible dream for all of us. Big dreams are always accompanied by seemingly insurmountable challenges but the difficulties cannot stop us from reaching the finish line.

Passionate dreamers never quit! I never quit!

I was born poor—always stranded about tomorrow, thinking God was not for me, until we survived. I got tired of hearing fights over money and other things.

I was the second child. My family had a happy and contentable. My dear did not last long. The week I was born in 1995, father lost his job, our only source of [income].

He hired to look for another job, but failed.

TEARS of happiness and goodbyes among SOM graduates

My very good and religious father changed. Several times. I buried him; we were from a needy but we lost his job. I was just because I thought I caused the family's misfortune. I wished I had not been born.

When our life reached its lowest point, I started to hate my father. Anger filled my heart. I had to help put food on the table and earn money for school supplies and allowance by doing laundry for our neighbors.

I noticed precious days in school. When I was happy about while washing clothes was I got enough time to [illegible] dream. In one of my daydreams I would be operating a wedding machine.

I took the examination for the Sisters of Mary School, where I passed, but I dreamed of going to the Regional Science High School in Isabela, where we lived after my parents separated. I also passed the entrance exam there.

Unfortunately, the uncle who promised to support my studies died in a car accident. I was left with no choice but to enroll at the Sisters of Mary School.

Now I realize that everything was planned.

PASSIONATE H2

Lily DEMARIS Bueneo, International Monetary Fund resident representative; William Dorr, board member; Dory Family Pamaldaran; Br. Pedro Chu, superior general, SOM; Education Secretary Armin Luistro; US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr.; Bishop Reynaldo Bautista, diocese of Boac, Marinduque; and Mr. Jon Kim, Korean consul

L-R: CHARLIE Pulley, Dr. Ramon Bautista, ex-Davao school division superintendent; Dr. Sergio Cao, president, Manila Tytana Colleges; Marisi Pizaro, chair, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Dr. Yolanda Quijano, schools division superintendent; and Hyun-Mo Park, founder and chair, Kalahan Foundation

K-12 will strengthen—not drop—science

And no letup in donations for schools devastated by Tropical Storm 'Sendong'

By Tara Quimosada

THE K-12 (Kinder garten to 12) program is being designed to strengthen instruction of science in Philippine schools.

The Department of Education (DepEd) made the announcement to allay fears that the curriculum revamp would adversely affect science education.

Fears of further dilution of the science program emerged after reports came out in media that the [illegible] Girl DepEd would be dropping science in Grade 1 starting school year 2012-13.

The department clarified that science had not been taught as a separate subject in Grades 1 and 2 since the 1980s.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro said for 30 years now, science had only been a separate subject in public schools starting in Grade 3.

Rudimentary science concepts were embedded in the Grades 1 and 2 subjects [illegible], mathematics and health (multicultural, arts, physical education and health).

This would be retained in the revised basic education curriculum of the K-12 reform program designed to improve the quality of Filipino graduates by adding two years of senior high school to the 10-year basic education cycle.

"In effect, we are merely mainstreaming the same specialists in focus on fundamental skills, numeracy and literacy (reading and writing) during the early years," Luistro said.

This was confirmed by Felicisa Pado, a reading and early learning expert from the University of the Philippines.

Pado said school from a practice in teaching early grades for science to be integrated into other subjects. Science was only introduced as a separate subject in third grade.

This was the practice at the UP Integrated School, one of the best government basic education schools.

"The focus in the early grades is communication skills. Science concepts are integrated, for instance, in reading stories," said Pado.

In an earlier interview, Luistro explained that the new Grade 1 curriculum would have a "more enjoyable" and relatable content, with learning times cut from six to four so that school will not be too early learners.

The new curriculum will also focus on the mother tongue not only as a medium of instruction but also as a separate language learning area.

The use of a child's first language has been proven to improve student scores and boost their learning curve at

[illegible] H2

ACCREDITED DepEd

How Pinoys can excel in math

(Last of three parts)

FOR THE PAST two weeks, we have discussed why East Asians (such as the Chinese and Japanese) generally excel in mathematics globally and why Chinese, on average, do better in math locally than other ethnic groups.

Reasons include more learning time, parents' recognition of lowest academic standard and math symbols, Confucian tradition of learning, math achievers as role models, added training outside school.

But our research shows that left-handed Pinoys can also excel in math.

Other reasons include cultural factors, such as:

1) Asian parents (specifically, in population) by Amy Chua in her book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother?" Some researchers, however, say that Asian parents are not necessarily more demanding than parents in other countries.

2) Asian parents (specifically, in population) by Amy Chua in her book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother?" Some researchers, however, say that Asian parents are not necessarily more demanding than parents in other countries.

Qiaochu X. Zeng-Chua

(more, discussed below).

This echoes cross-cultural findings that parental (especially maternal) behavior in Japan and Taiwan is correlated with school performance.

Are Asian parents (specifically, in population) by Amy Chua in her book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother?" Some researchers, however, say that Asian parents are not necessarily more demanding than parents in other countries. But others strike a good balance between work and play. They demand that their children do well, but they do not compete vicariously with other people, and they give enough time for family bonding and play.

Early exposure

Allied with this is children's early exposure to math and science. Most good problem solvers report having been fascinated with math since childhood. Such curiosity led them to explore more difficult problems on their own.

They like puzzles, especially recreational and logic mind-benders. In fact, most IMO (International Math Olympiad) winners have parents who have been training them since they were young.

For instance, 1988 silver medalist Jennie Chohfi-ing has a physicist father who exposed him to math problems in primary school and other supplemental learning.

Supportive parents, coupled with school efforts, are so critical that they can overcome adverse conditions, such as war and poverty.

Joseflen Fenacier of the University of the Philippines Diliman (she is now retired), organized the first Philippine Math Olympiad (PMO) in 1984. Nineteen years the increasing success of students there places the National Capital Region.

Six nations, in Catalinan City where conflict between Muslims and Christians occasionally erupt, averages from the Albert Einstein School, with consistently supportive parents, was third prize in the 1998 PMO national finals.

Master teachers

Good teachers start by using real-life problems and real by challenging them. Those teachers have mastered the subject in depth, and are creative and versatile in various teaching techniques, such as open-ended problems solving, peer tutoring, integrated concepts, nurturing attitudes, and so on.

Imran Chua, head of the Math Trainers Guild that trains kids for international competitions, says in master teachers strive "to develop to gifted students' ability to solve non-routine problems, make connections, generalize situations by observing structured patterns, analyze data very well. They encourage mental agility, originality of interpretation, flexibility, independence and independence."

Excellent textbooks, though not necessary, can supplement high-level learning. Math concepts are usually abstract, so clear explanations, accompanied by related illustrations, can help students grasp them.

Unfortunately, because of cost, many locally produced mathematics can overlying text a few meaningful pages by using small fonts or letters. They also contain many typographical errors. How can students learn from deficient books?

Mental toughness

Composed of confidence, concentration and perseverance, mental toughness is a main component in successful students. Mentally tough students believe they are capable of solving a problem, can focus on the task at hand, and possess a high frustration threshold.

Mental toughness can be developed in several ways. Experts say to point who are mentally tough lookers in their children and have the belief that hard work is the key to success. Parents of underachievers, on the other hand, attribute success or lack of it to luck, genius, or even God.

Pinoys are not doomed to be the worst in the world in math and science. With the help of our Asian neighbors, our parents, schools, civic groups, and government can work together so our youth can regain the math prominence that was ours a century ago.

E-mail the author at bienbasis@yahoo.com.

'Doon po sa Amin' finals on Feb. 22

A TOTAL of 12 public schools will vie for the top prize in Doon sa Amin (DSA) Learning Challenge, "Ano ang Kwento Mo?" and DPSA Quest will showcase their entries during the awards ceremony for the eighth SWEEP Innovation and Excellence Awards on Feb. 22 at the SMX Convention Hall.

Finalists in the DPSA Learning Challenge are Bureau Featured High School, Tondo High School, Gen. T. Santiago MHS Salitan, Minerva Occidental MHS, Naga City Science High School, and Olongapo City NHS.

These schools have also been shortlisted for "Ano ang Kwento Mo": Tondo NHS, Jose J. Leido Jr. Memorial NHS, Mangahan High School and Iligan City Science High School.

Two out of 11 schools that won 28 entries to the DPSA Quest were named finalists: Naga Central School I and San Roque Central Elementary School.

The online contests are part of Smart's interest for All advocacy, which aims to encourage schools to use computer and Internet technologies to contribute Web-based information and educational materials about their respective communities.

Smart introduced the DPSA Learning Challenge in 2008. The competition, exclusive to SDP partner high schools and online newsletter endeavor, challenges teams to perform basic community mapping exercises to generate local content that will help educate about and/or address pertinent local problems or issues in their respective communities.

This year, the search received 137 entries from 31 schools.

In 2011, Smart introduced "Ano ang Kwento Mo?" (What's Your Story?) to encourage students to create video blogs about their communities on such topics as arts and culture, history and society, travel and tourism, and environment and disaster preparedness, and DPSA Quest challenges teachers-student teams from SDP partner elementary schools and online newsletters to research and tell online, through their blog sites, unique stories about their respective communities.

Judges consisted of officers from of the Bureau of Secondary Education, Thea Jay Mundo of the Bureau of Elementary Education, Thea Jay Mundo of the Bureau of Elementary Education, Hermes Patanao of Adamson School, Professor Mariano Ico, Christopher Lorenzo and Lloyd Anthony Leyva, Jaime Manuel Flores of Answers Communication Department, and Roger Chua of The Philippines Inc.

Entries of finalists may be accessed via www.doonpasaamin.ph.

IMO bronze medalist tops 2012 Philippine Math Olympiad

PHO winners (from left) Kenneth Co, PSHS-West Campus, third; Avery Joshua Lee Tan, Chiang Kai Shek College, first; Mikaela Angelina Uy, Saint Jude Catholic School, second; and IBE Director Nina G. Ramon

MANILA, Philippines — Jefferson Mercio of Chiang Kai Shek College, who won a bronze medal in the 2011 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), topped this year's Philippine Mathematical Olympiad (PMO).

Mercio received P75,000 while his coach, Frederick Ruiza, got P5,000.

Second place in the PMO was Mikaela Angelina Uy of Saint Jude Catholic School. She received a cash prize of P150,000 while her coach, Myrna Bascon, got P3,000.

Kenneth Co of the Philippine Science High School Main Campus was third. He got P100,000 while his coach, Reginaldo Tacadena III, received P2,000.

The three top winners and the 17 other national finalists will train this summer to determine who will represent the Philippines in the 53rd IMO in July in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The PMO, the country's oldest and most challenging math competition, is organized by the Mathematical Society of the Philippines (MSP) with the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI).

DOST-SEI Director Nina G. Ramon, while congratulating the winners, said the bigger challenge would be how to utilize the gains made through the PMO in uplifting the quality of basic education in the Philippines.

She said, with a very good foundation, the country could have a large pool of students and math enthusiasts who would engage in math contests and projects.

Ramon expressed hope that, as the nation started implementation of the K to 12 (Kindergarten plus 12 years of basic education) curriculum, the Department of Education would take a closer look at the mathematics framework for Philippine basic education that might in particular, mathematical empowerment, harnessing their understanding of the fundamental ideas of numbers and number concepts, measurement, geometry, probability, data analysis, patterns, functions and algebra.

Ramon also said SEI, in partnership with the Philippine Council for Mathematics Teacher Education, came up with the Mathematics Framework for Philippine Basic Education to present curriculum developers, teachers, school administrators and policy makers with a conceptual structure that would help students value learning and see the importance of mathematics in daily life.

The Philippines won the most medals last year since it joined the global mathematics competition.

Aside from Mercio, other Filipino students who won bronze medalists in last year's IMO were Carmela Antoinette Lao and Janice Bibbit Co of Saint Jude Catholic School.

K-12 will strengthen... From page B1

they move up the education ladder.

DepEd will introduce the new Grade 1 curriculum this coming school year as part of the phased implementation of K-12. It expects to graduate the first full-cycle K-12 class in 2018.

"The focus of early education (Kinder to Grade 3) should be the fundamental skills and literacy of the pupils to develop holistic comprehension for more complicated subjects such as science," Luistro said.

He added that K-12 aimed to enhance science learning and teaching and make it even more relevant in the daily experience of the learners.

Sendong donations

Meanwhile, DepEd continues to receive donations for "Sendong" victims more than a month since it appealed for help for schools and students in areas devastated by the original storm.

DepEd has shipped to Northern Mindanao countless boxes of school supplies, clothes, food, personal hygiene products and other relief items from donors across the country.

The most recent shipment of 17,000 notebooks and almost 2,000 bundles of school supplies arrived on Jan. 31.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of all those who responded to our donation drive for Sendong victims in the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro," said Tina Ganzon, DepEd undersecretary for finance.

"There help has allowed us to move closer to our goal of bringing normalcy back to the lives of the victims."

Ganzon said DepEd some P4.14-million worth of textbooks, teaching guides, learning materials and equipment, the department's disaster response office said in a report.

DepEd's efforts in Northern Mindanao include post-trauma counseling for both students and teachers.

Life...

From page B1

Sometimes from generation people provide not only for the education of the more than 11,000 students at the 6,000-campus K-12 school, but for food, clothing, shelter and other needs as well.

In addition to the required academic subjects in high school, the celebrants are also given many hours of training in vocational skills.

The girls learn dressmaking, industrial sewing machine operation, cross-typing and bookkeeping, electronics, secretarial, cooking, basic computer operation, and culinary arts.

The boys are trained in electricity and electronics, welding, shop and carpentry, computer technology (TARTE), automotive chassis and driving, and mechanical processes.

After the ceremonies, Sister Mary Ann Antonio urged their parents with a solemn pronouncement.

'This school healed...' From page B1

The history of Mary came like a mother rescuing a fallen child. The day I came here, my mind is filled with a picture of my father smiling and crying again.

This school healed the paralysis in my soul, just how it has done for every boy and girl that have lived here and just as it will do for those still to come.

The school breathed new life to our shoulder again through the loving Father Alvarez, Mother Mary and the mother saints.

She made us see the merciful God through the charity of our benefactors, the needs of our neighbors and the joyful friendship of boys and girls like ourselves. She showed that beyond the existence of sadness and resentment is a union we were meant to be new and women fully alive preaching the fullness of God's glory in everything we did for ourselves, other people and our country.

My fellow graduates, with the love in love and concern of the sisters, we were molded to beat the odds and make the most of every chance we got. We owe them the greatest part of our achievement.

I remember how we would cry for hunger our beloved brother, Monsignor Aloysius Schwartz, who chose to live in poverty so that the thousands of us may enjoy the riches of his love for the poorest of the poor. Would we ever intend to our prayers the sacrifice of Mother Elizabeth and Sister Theodora leaving their native Sicily for a mission and vision for our souls? The unrelenting hand of spirit and awareness shared by the beloved priests in residence, lady Masses and homilies? The limitless patience of our teachers bred on using our wisdom? The robust heartbeat of our parents, who gave us a new sense of the riches of God? The sacrifices of our parents when we are apart? The time of all the visitors who share their joy with us today?

And so we need a special place in our hearts for each of you whom we shall encounter in gratitude our whole life through. Thank you very, very much.

Our younger brothers and sisters, you are the witnessing eyes, the listeners, and the followers of us, your big brothers and Sisters. May today provide you the inspiration and will to gain for the price of your perseverance and determination. Your success has started. You only need to reach the finish line.

Before we leave these gates, we should never, must never ever forget. We never want eagles in the comfort of our nests. We are eagles flying to different skies the wind and rise to the heavenly joy of serving our neighbors with compassion.

To God be the glory!

Passionate dreamers... From page B1

This school changed me a lot, not just on the physical aspects but my whole being. It made me realize what God has been trying to figure out in life. The school provided me skills and abilities. It gave me the selfless reach my goals no matter how difficult the road might be.

I was so insecure before, but now I have the confidence to do tasks even in front of many people. I felt so weak to have many trials before but now I can face them squarely and smartly find ways to overcome them.

I had lost hope that I could achieve my dreams but now I am elated that in a few months I will be reaching my dreams. I discovered my capabilities and realized that, when I fail, I should just stand up and just keep going.

Then I was so, I am much better than yesterday. I am now ready for the future. I am not yet gone ... but tomorrow I will be!

So words do not express the gratitude I and my fellow graduates feel. All of our feelings are one to the motherly touch of the Sisters of Mary Family.

To our Heavenly Father, thank you for showering your unconditional love and for your saving us through your instruments.

To our beloved founder, Msgr. Aloysius Schwartz, thank you for living the author of this great story of success.

To Sr. Maria Cho, thank you for continuing the work of Mother Michaela; to Sr. Daniela, our local superior, to our very dynamic principal, Sr. Amelia Lucio; to our mothers, the sisters who patiently guide us; to our teachers, who generously hone our knowledge, skills and attitude; to our spiritual friends—thank you for your guidance through your homilies; to Fr. Elmo for bringing innovations in the school, to all our benefactors, thank you for your generosity.

And to everyone who is not here or somehow contributed to our development, we pray for your good health so that you can continue being God's instruments in elevating His love.

To my fellow graduates, continue being the living witnesses of Fr. Al.

To our little sisters and brothers, may your perseverance inspire you to study more seriously, grab every opportunity to learn, and always try to bring out the best in you.

Do not settle for mediocrity but aim for excellence. Take advantage of this precious time because everything you need to become good children of God and good citizens is here. Use their property and take good care of all the facilities for the next generation.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Copy Editor Chayrie Medina

Member Schools

UB hosts first teacher induction program for Batangas

The Department of Education Central Office, in coordination with its local and regional offices and the University of Batangas College of Education hosted the first ever Teacher Induction Program for Batangas Province. Participants were the newly-hired public elementary school teachers.

Deped representatives from different divisions such as Rizal, Tanauan, Lipa, Batangas Province and Batangas City were present for the training held from Jan. 25 to 26.

The objectives of the training are to: (1) enhance pedagogical (educational) skills of beginning teachers tasked to handle English, Mathematics and Science; (2) orient participants on the responsibilities, competencies and ethical standards for teachers; (3) update participants on current trends and issues concerning local and global educational system.

Hopkil Chess University of Batangas is for the host of the first activity of its kind in Batangas province because it enjoys CHED recognition of being a Center of Excellence in teaching education.

The event was graced by Deped Region IV-A director III Dr. Lorna D. Dino; Teacher Education Council Teacher Induction Program coordinator Dr. Avelina T. Lingat, and Teacher Education Council Luzon representative Dr. Paz L. Lucido.

Some of the topics discussed during the seminar were the Responsibility and Accountability of the Filipino Teachers, Code of Ethics of Professionals, Enhanced Competency - Based Teacher Standards, Communicative Language Teaching and the upcoming K to 12 Basic Education Program.

The training lasted for five days. The real-life activity on the last day of the training (Demonstration Teaching) as well as the closing program was made possible through the able leadership and support of Teresita O. Aquino, OIC-assistant to the Schools Division superintendent, Division of Batangas City.

FROM left, Dr. Mercedes Mauricio, director of UB Lipa campus; Dr. Lorna D. Dino, director III of Region IV-A; and Dr. Sofia S. Arca, dean of UB College of Education

PWU marks 93rd foundation anniversary

PHILIPPINE Women's University celebrates its 93rd founding anniversary with a series of activities in February at its Taft campus, Manila. President Dr. Francisco Benitez said the activities cover community outreach programs, seminars, exhibits, culinary competitions with tree planting at the Helena Z. Benitez Mindfulness in Ipo Dam, Bulacan and gift giving at Dampol Elementary School by the High School Department set on Feb. 16.

An art exhibit of the School of Design and Fine Arts will run up to Feb. 18, while Kindness Teachers Day will be observed on Feb. 14. A career orientation and wellness lecture will be conducted by High School Department and School of Statistics, respectively on Feb. 15. The following day, the alumni will pay a courtesy call on PWU chairperson Dr. Helena Z. Benitez at the Mini-Alla Heritage Home.

Highlights of the Foundation Day Month which is also called Heart Month in the school calendar is the President's Convocation led by Dr. Francisco Benitez on Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Gonzalo Beruben Hall. This will be followed with the proclamation of Mr. and Ms. PWU organized by the Student Council Organization in the Bayanihan Hours.

The alumni reunion themed "Back Around the World with Elvis" organized by the PWU Alumni Association led by its president Amelia Alonzo will be on Feb. 18, 4 p.m. at Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati. The Alumni office and High School Class '63 led by Nina Nuñez will put together a "Tribute to Helena Z. Benitez" at the Mission Pavilion. Grossmilling students, faculty, personnel and administrators will be feted during the University Recognition set on Feb. 24 at the Gonzalo Beruben Hall.

The JAMS-Manila and Quezon City campus will hold their Junior Secret Event and Table 2012 on Feb. 25 and Wildlife, Quezon City respectively on Feb. 25 and 26, while the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management will compete in the Association of Culinary Competition from Feb. 23 to 26 at World Trade Center.

On Feb. 29, the School of Music will present "Melodies for a Cause," a benefit concert for victims of Typhoon Sendong at the Philamlife Auditorium. Dean Dr. Soledad Fernandez said that among the featured performers are artists in residence Joseph Tamalla and Rachel Cobos, PWU Guitar Ensemble and Festival Chorus, and String Quartet.

CEU-PACE to conduct training on professional voice usage

THE CENTRO Escolar University (CEU) School of Education Liberal Arts Humanities Social Work in coordination with the CEU Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) will conduct a training for professional voice users on Feb. 23, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Glinda Arellano Hall (LAH) of CEU-Manila.

The training will focus on voice acoustics, the art of the human expression and presentation, and vocal health, to name to help the participants realize the infinite potential of the human voice and its use in performance; gain some knowledge of the physical framework and the basic aspects of vocal anatomy and physiology; and to get to know the vocal mechanism better, realize the practical implications of such knowledge, develop sound vocal habits and vocal hygiene, and vocal to perform orally with ease as speakers, presenters, or plain performers.

The topics to be discussed during the training are about Making Sense of Vocal Mechanics and the Art of Vocal Expression.

Maria Cecilia Lopez-Molina, two-time Aliw Awardee and one of the stars in diamond Filipina soprano in the country, will conduct the training.

Singers, actors, teachers/lecturers/clinicians, choral conductors, public speakers/radio/TV announcers, lawyers, ministers and priests, and Music teachers are encouraged to attend.

For inquiries and reservation, please visit the CEU Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) Office at 9 Mendiola St., San Miguel, Manila or call 735-7871 or 735-8683 ex 71 loc. 537. You may also e-mail PACE at pace@ceu.edu.ph or ceupace@yahoo.com.

OLFU logs perfect passing rate in Dentistry board exams

OUR LADY of Fatima University College of Dentistry chalked a 100 percent passing mark in the Dentistry Licensure Examinations held last December 2011.

This once more validates its stature as one of the premier educational institutions in the Philippines, deserving of the autonomous status granted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in March 2009.

The College of Dentistry has likewise been recognized by the Philippine Regulatory Commission as one of the top performing schools since 1996. The college implements one of the more innovative competency-based dental curriculum that includes community enrichment in Pedagogy and Perspectives in Dentistry.

OLFU prides itself as one of the first to offer Infection Control, Conscious Sedation and Forensic Dentistry as separate curricular offerings.

Dean Arturo De Leon, who is also currently the president of the Philippine Dental Association, states: "The College of Dentistry of Our Lady of Fatima University continues to innovate, educate and challenge our students to go beyond what is the normal practice in this field. We have actively joined and partnered with both local and international organizations like the South East Asian Association for Dental Education (SEAADE), Philippine Dental Association, Kasagguan Dental College of Japan, Hsing Hsing University Faculty of Dentistry, International School of Cambodia, among others, to get the latest and up-to-date trends and teaching methodologies shared by the region. All these for the advancement of the College of Dentistry of Our Lady of Fatima University and the practice of Dentistry in the Philippines in general."

OLFU also extolls the passion and dedication of all the men and women behind the College of Dentistry with this recent achievement, truly a testament to the university's commitment to a legacy of excellent education and compassionate value formation.

Letran and Ad Foundation to hold AdSpeak '12

COLEGIO de San Juan de Letran, in partnership with the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, will convene students from various schools when it holds AdSpeak '12, a student convention on values advertising.

The event, which will take place on Feb. 10, will be held at the Student Center Auditorium of Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila. Advertising in first on a first-come, first-served basis.

AdSpeak '12 aims to improve on Filipino communication the importance of advertising with positive values. Advertising experts will share their insights during the all-day event. Among them are Abi Aquino, creative director of Leo Burnett Philippines; Tess Filipinas, former president of Basic Advertising; Regina Lopez, managing director of MEC CBN Foundation; Greg Martin, creative director of ace Saatchi & Saatchi; Angelo Bengzon, CEO of Carat Philippines; and John Pole, president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers.

Aside from talks from resource speakers, AdSpeak '12 will feature its Values Advertising Awards. Students' Choice awards and Golden Choice awards. Commercials that uphold values can be screened and entered by student delegates in two categories: print, radio, TV and campaign.

Letran and the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines are co-presenting AdSpeak '12 since they share the same goal of promoting values and wholesome advertising in advertisements.

FROM left, SSC chairperson for Academic Support and Student Services Nancy-Ann Gaza, SSC College of Information Technology chairperson Dr. Cris Crisostomo, SSC president Dr. Mario V. Ferrari, FTI president Peter Morrison, and all FTI technical director Jay Rosales

Southville inks internship MOA with leading solutions provider Paperless Trail

SOUTHVILLE International School and Colleges (SISC) recently partnered with Paperless Trail Inc. (PTI) to provide SISC's BS Information Technology students with industry-based internship. PTI is the country's leading solutions provider in emerging web-based technologies. The joint venture is paramount to SISC's commitment to provide its students with the best training that would give them a cutting edge in the highly competitive workplace.

UST's 'i Psyched' grand alumni homecoming slated March 3 at Metro Concert Bar

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Association of Thomasian Psychology Alumni (UAPSY) will hold its first grand alumni homecoming dubbed "i Psyched: The Beginning" to launch the scholarship foundation and commemorate the birth of fr. Angel De Blas, who introduced Psychology to UST. The event will take place March 3, Saturday, at Metro Concert Bar, West Avenue, Quezon City. For reservations and ticket reservations, call 426-1611 loc. 8205, (0917) 817-4981, or e-mail ustpsychfb@yahoogroup.com. For updates, like facebook Fan Page: IPSYCHOLOGY: BEGINNING and follow on Twitter @ipsyched. This is your chance to relive your college days and reconnect with old friends!

SSM encourages environmental awareness

AS PART of Singapore School Manila's mission to encourage environment-based social awareness in their students, their SAGassi (earth) weekend activities recognized by facilitator Frank Reyes, STRIDE coach Roberto Acosta, SA adviser Teacher Jedi and SSM managing director Anale Abierra.

Horse-based travel agency business lecture set Feb. 19 at PUP Del Pilar Campus

A FULL day lecture on how to operate a horse-based travel agency business will be conducted by professor Benito Gonzaga Feb. 19 at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Del Pilar Campus, Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa, Manila. Slots are limited. Please call or SMS (0917) 388-0003 or visit Facebook account under Business Academic Multiservices.

DLSU re-stages cantata 'A Fire in the Soul'

"A FIRE in the Soul" tells the story of a crucial event in the history of the Lasallian mission in Southeast Asia. On Feb. 10, as American forces bombarded the City of Manila, a group of Japanese soldiers entered the De La Salle College campus on Taft Avenue and attacked the people who were living there. Twenty four men, women, and children, and 18 La Salle brothers died in the massacre. The musical presentation will be held at the Teresa Yuchengco Auditorium, De La Salle University-Manila, Feb. 27 at 8 p. m. The cantata is one of the highlights of the yearlong centennial celebration of the La Salle University.

STUDENTS Jake Vince R. Casing, Mariligemel E. Cuares, Kristoffer B. De Guia, Rafael Paolo E. De Leon, Lexie Alexis D. Dayco, Jean Paula V. Flores, Carol Jade F. Forte, Aeriane Leo P. Morales, Jakiera M. Pineda, and Julie Bernadette B. San Jose together with their coach Jan Arthur D. Atienza in holding the weaving entry

Claret HS students win inter-school scrap junk art competition with 'How-La'

CLARET 2nd year high school students won first place in the "Scrap to Craft" inter-school Competition held at Miriam College last Jan. 31. The contestants took the top prize for the junk art competition with their title piece, "How-La," a creation of scrap metal, paper and plastic representing the cage we build for ourselves without our trash. How-La, according to the winning students, is made up of two words: how and la. "How" is a question we hear the environment can be protected, while "La" is lifted from the Singapore tagline expression. The title itself sounds similar to the Filipino word "hoala," meaning cage. Standing about 3 feet in height, the cage's grey color dominates the outside and keeps the colors inside. According to the Claret students, "The barbed wires evoke a feeling of imprisonment and inner loneliness. The bells hanging from the top call upon us, whispering the immortal desire for change. The bouquet of plastic flowers planted inside the cage symbolizes our beautiful earth – fertile and free from pollution, but unfortunately waiting for the right time. Thanks of plants continue to be rain free, allowing our will to save our home. In contrast and keep the flowers blooming. The drone of wires' gate is bound to fate. Mother Nature is waiting for the right time, when man is awakened by the bells and comes to his senses, when man takes a stand and humans set aside their selfish desires and reached to restore this cage and finally, use that little voice they to sings."

FROM left, SSC chairperson for Academic Support and Student Services Nancy-Ann Gaza, SSC College of Information Technology chairperson Dr. Cris Crisostomo, SSC president Dr. Mario V. Ferrari, FTI president Peter Morrison, and all FTI technical director Jay Rosales

BENITO T. Gonjalan being conferred the Degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, by University of Perpetual Help System DALTA officials

Gonjalan conferred Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa by University of Perpetual Help

BENITO (remitted surname) Gonjalan, businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist thanks T. Gonjalan was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, by University of Perpetual Help System DALTA. UPHSD president Anthony John M. Tanap Jr. board vice chair Dr. Jaime M. Tamayo and school director Dr. Alfonso R. Lyndo represented the university. Gonjalan was honored for his significant role and contributions in various fields particularly as president of the Filipino Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, vice president and executive officer of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center and trustee of the CGH College of Nursing. The UPHSD academic community and Gonjalan's family graced the ceremonies held.

UE alumni engineer Teodoro Benavente Jr. (center) is flanked by (from left) IECEP national president Orvin S. Vicente, Philippine Congressmen-elect Ma. Rachel J. Arenas, engineer Sonia Deluzaro and engineer Virgilio Javier (Most Outstanding ECEs in Electronics and Computer and IT, respectively)

IECEP honors outstanding UE alumnus-engineer

BENEDICTO "Ben" Benavente Jr., honored in Bulacan by (from left) IECEP national president Orvin S. Vicente, Philippine Congressmen-elect Ma. Rachel J. Arenas, engineer Sonia Deluzaro and engineer Virgilio Javier (Most Outstanding ECEs in Electronics and Computer and IT, respectively)

Aquino to address Cocopea congress

PRESIDENT Aquino will deliver the keynote address in the 6th National Cocopea Congress on Feb. 20-29 at the Quadrennium Pavilion of the University of Santo Tomas.

Cocopea, or Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations, has over 1,800 member institutions consisting the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ACSCU), Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Peace), Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities (Philscu), and the National Association of Vocational School Associations of the Philippines (Tevaphil).

Conference theme is "Reforming Philippine Education: Issues, Challenges and Solutions."

Expert speakers are Education Secretary Armin Luistro, chair Ching Commission on Higher Education, and Director General Joel Villanueva of the Technology Education and Skills Development Authority.

To discuss the 29th Congress' legislative agenda on educational reforms are Sens. Edgardo Angara, chair, Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III, chair, House Committee on Basic Education; and Rep. Amor Edgardo M. Angara, chair, House Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

PRESIDENT Aquino

Nominations for 3rd Gawad LIDER extended

THE DEADLINE for nominations for the third award for Leadership and Innovation for Development Advocacy in Science Education or Gawad LIDER has been extended to Feb. 15.

It aims to: the Exemplary Leadership and Innovation awards.

Awarding will be held during the 4th anniversary of the 2012 National Science and Technology Week in July.

Director Filmar G. Barrozo of the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) said the extension was done to encourage more nominations.

She invited stakeholders in science education, including public makers, curriculum developers, teachers, mentors, and students, to nominate people who had inspired and transformed the way they looked at science education.

The Exemplary Leadership Award is given to individuals and institutions that have consistently demonstrated leadership qualities leading to improvements in science education that have had nationwide impact. Individual and institution organization winners will each receive P200,000 cash prize and a medal.

The Exemplary Leadership Award winner must have demonstrated sustained leadership capability through a project with significant impact on science education. The project proponent should have been implemented for at least five years at the time of the competition.

The Innovation Award is given to an individual or institution that has introduced a technology-based innovation that has significantly improved science education. Two winners will each receive P100,000.

Documented results of nominees' successful interventions should be presented. An innovation is the development or enhancement of devices, equipment, gadgets, tools or products, processes, systems and procedures resulting in greater effectiveness and higher efficiency in science teaching and learning.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.scied.dost.gov.ph. They are also available at the DOST regional offices and DOST-SEI main office.

Barrozo said, aside from recognizing leadership and commitment to improve science education, Gawad LIDER winners were expected to be role models who would inspire others to do their share in country and effect changes in science education.

Scholarships for international program available

THE UNITED World Colleges (UWC) Philippines is offering up-and-coor fourth-year high school students two-year scholarship for an international baccalaureate (IB) course abroad.

Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m., March 4.

Applicants must be Filipino high school students, who are in the top ten percent of their class and are graduating before August.

Candidates must have an open mind and other personal qualities to live and study for two years in an intensive multicultural environment.

Selected candidates may apply for full or partial scholarship at UWCs in Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

Previous Filipino scholars were sent to Canada, Costa Rica, UK, Italy, United States, Wales and Netherlands.

Interested students and their parents should visit www.uwcphilippines.wordpress.com to learn more about the program and to download application forms.

They may also contact Hazel Alcantara at info@ph.uwc.org or 0917-6529-894.

The UWC, anchored by Nelson Mandela and Queen Noor, is the only global educational movement that brings together students aged 16-19 from all over the world in 13 campuses in five continents.

Students, selected on merit regardless of race, age, or creed, live together in an environment designed to foster international understanding, peace and leadership. While pursuing the two-year IB course, students participate in community service programs where they are able to work together.

UWC Philippines is founded by Conie Meidi. The selection committee includes UWC alumni and parents.

First tourism and hospitality students summit set

THE ITTI government of Calapan, Mindoro, is hosting the 1st Mimaropa Tourism and Hospitality National Feb. 27-28 at the Bued College Quintanaman of Calapan.

Some 700 students from the provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan are expected to attend the event organized through the City College of Calapan (CCC), in cooperation with the Tourism Educators and Movers Alliance Philippines, League of Tourism Students of the Philippines and Oriental Mindoro Tourism Office.

Theme of the summit is "Tourism for Transformation of Today's Global Industry."

Speakers include Lavia consul Robert Lee Hough, Team Philippines chef emeritus, "The Values and Positive Thinking Attitudes for a Successful Career in Tourism and Hospitality" and "Historic Restaurants"; former Tourism Secretary Mateo Montemayor, "The Past, Present and Future of Philippine Tourism; Commissioner Ces Lilay Villanueva, "Tourism Trends"; Department of Tourism Undersecretary for Administration Myra Marie Villarosa, "Tourism Infrastructure"; and Calapan City Mayor Doy E. Leachon, chair, Board of Trustees, CCC, "Calapan City's Booming Tourism Industry: Opportunities, Investments and Infrastructure."

Conference to discuss changing 'adscape'

THE LATEST trends and developments in advertising, media and marketing communications and the rapidly changing "adscape" will be discussed in the 48th Student Advertising Congress on Feb. 9 at the Esplanade, near Mall Of Asia, in Pasay City.

Congress theme is "Are You Ready to Level up to the New Adscape?"

Ben Villa, chair of Centrofilia, organizer of the event, said an impressive line-up of guest speakers, headed by Tessy Gonzales, Mickey Quiogue and Ricky Alegre, had been secured.

Gonzales is president and chief executive officer of Newsweek-Mediacom, a joint venture company between Newsweek Philippines, Inc. and Mediacom Philippines, Inc.

Quiogue is managing partner of Group M Philippines, one of the largest media agencies in the country consisting of MAGNA, MEC, MediaCom, Mindshare, Mediavantage and Essence.

HIGH LEFT: Tessy Gonzales, Ricky Alegre, Mickey Quiogue

Alegre is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Philippine Amphora Public Relations and Communications, Inc. and has been consistently awarded for corporate affairs. He headed the special events committee of the iconic 22nd Ad Congress in Camarines Sur and was recently elected to Ad Board chair for 2012. He is currently managing director of United Print Media Group.

He is formerly head of sales and marketing of GMA7.

Quiogue worked for J. Walter Thompson Manila, Ogilvy Philippines, Coca-Cola Philippines, ABS-CBN's Studio 23 and GMA Marketing. He is the recipient of the Agency Steward in Marketing Management and the DBC's CEO Excel Award.

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Brand Toy Group's "Be-ang goes In," McDonald's "Burger Images" and "Sim Mmm."

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Metrobank business expo

TO ENCOURAGE entrepreneurship among Chinese-Filipino students and to teach them the how-to of starting business, the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) and Chiang Kai Shek College held recently a two-day business expo and seminar, "Business Driven Program (Legislating Business)."

Chinese-Filipino entrepreneurship students of Chiang Kai Shek College Faculty of Business, Arts and Sciences participated in the event. Student-initiated businesses showcased a wide range of products from food, merchandise, to souvenir items.

The forum-seminar focused on four basic modules in starting a business: Legal Requirements; Business Registration and Taxation; Labor Laws and Employment Standards; Laws on Patents, Rules, Statutory and Immigration.

Resource speakers were lawyers Danny Chua of the Ateneo de Manila University, Jerry Ilio of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and Chua Chiu Lan.

In his message, MBFI executive director Rhoderick L. Reyeres, Jr. said the project "realizes the vision of our group chair, Dr. George S.K. Ty — to become an inspiration to upcoming business leaders." The successor-entity, he said, aimed to teach students of the Chinese-Filipino community how to grow their business and make it compliant with Philippine laws.

He said Metrobank Foundation believed successful businesses would help uplift lives.

WORLD CHAMPION DEBATERS

Ateneo de Manila University team of Ateneo de Cebu-Ateneo de Davao University twelfth-year graduate students Jerome Lee Ho (2nd from left) and Jeremy Ong Ty (2nd from right) pose with their coaches after winning the 32nd World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC), held for the first time in the Philippines. The event was hosted by the La Salle Debate Society and supported by National Geographic Channel. Others in photo are (from left) Vicki Aparellin, Lexus country general manager; Francisco Albert II, president, San Miguel Petroleum Corporation; Fr. Bernard Oca, PSC, dean, Ateneo de Davao University; and Jon Bottoms, deputy chief of mission.

Photography the easy, fun way

THE FIRST Manila Resource Retreat photo safari for 2012 will be held Feb. 24-27. Online article is scheduled in March, April and May. The safari is open to local and foreign tourists, both photographers and non-photographers. Call 09063208, visit http://manila-retreat.wordpress.com or e-mail lemuelcubillas@yahoo.com.

CCNHS tops ICT quiz show

THE CEBU City National Science High School was grand prize winner in Ahoitz Foundation's 1st ICT Quiz Show.

Other winners were Apas Night High School, second; Mandaue City Science High School, third; Bindo National High School, fourth; and Tisa Integrated School, fifth.

Winners received cash prizes, tokens and sets of multimedia equipment from the Ahoitz Foundation.

A total of 45 public high schools in Metro Cebu participated in the information communications and technology (ICT) quiz.

All participating schools, beneficiaries of Ahoitz Foundation ICT projects, sent a three-member team each.

Ahoitz Foundation executive vice president and managing director Augusto Lagman Jr. said Department of Education Region 7 ICT coordinator Marietta Pontiz attended the event.

The ICT quiz show aimed to evaluate the impact and usefulness of donated computer laboratory schools, as well to assess students' knowledge in digital technology.

The Ahoitz Foundation, the corporate foundation of the Ahoitz Group, allocates more than half of its annual budget to education-related projects.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CORNER: SEASON 2: Directors of school companies by senior and junior management consulting students of QC, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde pose with Dr. Ma. Lourdes Rosario Ocampo (3rd from left), Ateneo de Manila University Graduate School of Business dean, during the launching of the Entrepreneurship Corner: Season 2 at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business in Rockwell, Makati City. The Entrepreneurship Corner is a student-run business center that provides free consulting services to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Ocampo is the founder of Bo's Coffee.

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UWC Philippines is founded by Conie Meidi. The selection committee includes UWC alumni and parents.

First tourism and hospitality students summit set

THE ITTI government of Calapan, Mindoro, is hosting the 1st Mimaropa Tourism and Hospitality National Feb. 27-28 at the Bued College Quintanaman of Calapan.

Some 700 students from the provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan are expected to attend the event organized through the City College of Calapan (CCC), in cooperation with the Tourism Educators and Movers Alliance Philippines, League of Tourism Students of the Philippines and Oriental Mindoro Tourism Office.

Theme of the summit is "Tourism for Transformation of Today's Global Industry."

Speakers include Lavia consul Robert Lee Hough, Team Philippines chef emeritus, "The Values and Positive Thinking Attitudes for a Successful Career in Tourism and Hospitality" and "Historic Restaurants"; former Tourism Secretary Mateo Montemayor, "The Past, Present and Future of Philippine Tourism; Commissioner Ces Lilay Villanueva, "Tourism Trends"; Department of Tourism Undersecretary for Administration Myra Marie Villarosa, "Tourism Infrastructure"; and Calapan City Mayor Doy E. Leachon, chair, Board of Trustees, CCC, "Calapan City's Booming Tourism Industry: Opportunities, Investments and Infrastructure."

Conference to discuss changing 'adscape'

THE LATEST trends and developments in advertising, media and marketing communications and the rapidly changing "adscape" will be discussed in the 48th Student Advertising Congress on Feb. 9 at the Esplanade, near Mall Of Asia, in Pasay City.

Congress theme is "Are You Ready to Level up to the New Adscape?"

Ben Villa, chair of Centrofilia, organizer of the event, said an impressive line-up of guest speakers, headed by Tessy Gonzales, Mickey Quiogue and Ricky Alegre, had been secured.

Gonzales is president and chief executive officer of Newsweek-Mediacom, a joint venture company between Newsweek Philippines, Inc. and Mediacom Philippines, Inc.

HIGH LEFT: Tessy Gonzales, Ricky Alegre, Mickey Quiogue

Alegre is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Philippine Amphora Public Relations and Communications, Inc. and has been consistently awarded for corporate affairs. He headed the special events committee of the iconic 22nd Ad Congress in Camarines Sur and was recently elected to Ad Board chair for 2012. He is currently managing director of United Print Media Group.

He is formerly head of sales and marketing of GMA7.

Quiogue worked for J. Walter Thompson Manila, Ogilvy Philippines, Coca-Cola Philippines, ABS-CBN's Studio 23 and GMA Marketing. He is the recipient of the Agency Steward in Marketing Management and the DBC's CEO Excel Award.

Brand Toy Group's "Be-ang goes In," McDonald's "Burger Images" and "Sim Mmm."

Quiogue is managing partner of Group M Philippines, one of the largest media agencies in the country consisting of MAGNA, MEC, MediaCom, Mindshare, Mediavantage and Essence.

Metrobank business expo

TO ENCOURAGE entrepreneurship among Chinese-Filipino students and to teach them the how-to of starting business, the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. (MBFI) and Chiang Kai Shek College held recently a two-day business expo and seminar, "Business Driven Program (Legislating Business)."

Chinese-Filipino entrepreneurship students of Chiang Kai Shek College Faculty of Business, Arts and Sciences participated in the event. Student-initiated businesses showcased a wide range of products from food, merchandise, to souvenir items.

The forum-seminar focused on four basic modules in starting a business: Legal Requirements; Business Registration and Taxation; Labor Laws and Employment Standards; Laws on Patents, Rules, Statutory and Immigration.

Resource speakers were lawyers Danny Chua of the Ateneo de Manila University, Jerry Ilio of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. and Chua Chiu Lan.

In his message, MBFI executive director Rhoderick L. Reyeres, Jr. said the project "realizes the vision of our group chair, Dr. George S.K. Ty — to become an inspiration to upcoming business leaders." The successor-entity, he said, aimed to teach students of the Chinese-Filipino community how to grow their business and make it compliant with Philippine laws.

He said Metrobank Foundation believed successful businesses would help uplift lives.

WORLD CHAMPION DEBATERS

Ateneo de Manila University team of Ateneo de Cebu-Ateneo de Davao University twelfth-year graduate students Jerome Lee Ho (2nd from left) and Jeremy Ong Ty (2nd from right) pose with their coaches after winning the 32nd World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC), held for the first time in the Philippines. The event was hosted by the La Salle Debate Society and supported by National Geographic Channel. Others in photo are (from left) Vicki Aparellin, Lexus country general manager; Francisco Albert II, president, San Miguel Petroleum Corporation; Fr. Bernard Oca, PSC, dean, Ateneo de Davao University; and Jon Bottoms, deputy chief of mission.

Photography the easy, fun way

THE FIRST Manila Resource Retreat photo safari for 2012 will be held Feb. 24-27. Online article is scheduled in March, April and May. The safari is open to local and foreign tourists, both photographers and non-photographers. Call 09063208, visit http://manila-retreat.wordpress.com or e-mail lemuelcubillas@yahoo.com.

CCNHS tops ICT quiz show

THE CEBU City National Science High School was grand prize winner in Ahoitz Foundation's 1st ICT Quiz Show.

Other winners were Apas Night High School, second; Mandaue City Science High School, third; Bindo National High School, fourth; and Tisa Integrated School, fifth.

Winners received cash prizes, tokens and sets of multimedia equipment from the Ahoitz Foundation.

A total of 45 public high schools in Metro Cebu participated in the information communications and technology (ICT) quiz.

All participating schools, beneficiaries of Ahoitz Foundation ICT projects, sent a three-member team each.

Ahoitz Foundation executive vice president and managing director Augusto Lagman Jr. said Department of Education Region 7 ICT coordinator Marietta Pontiz attended the event.

The ICT quiz show aimed to evaluate the impact and usefulness of donated computer laboratory schools, as well to assess students' knowledge in digital technology.

The Ahoitz Foundation, the corporate foundation of the Ahoitz Group, allocates more than half of its annual budget to education-related projects.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CORNER: SEASON 2: Directors of school companies by senior and junior management consulting students of QC, Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde pose with Dr. Ma. Lourdes Rosario Ocampo (3rd from left), Ateneo de Manila University Graduate School of Business dean, during the launching of the Entrepreneurship Corner: Season 2 at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business in Rockwell, Makati City. The Entrepreneurship Corner is a student-run business center that provides free consulting services to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Ocampo is the founder of Bo's Coffee.

Filipino's 'vision' of Japan wins in essay contest

BALMES with Philippine Ambassador to Japan Manuel Lopez

By Tarra Quismundo

FOR PRESIDENT, a close vision of Japan is an "innovation superpower," a Filipino graduate student won the Prize of Excellence in the Japan Foreign Trade Council Inc. (JFTC) essay-writing contest.

Orville Balmes, 25, a graduate student at the Catholic University of Korea, won 200,000 yen (about P100,000) for "The Making of a New Innovative Japan: Road Map to Great Recovery," the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo said.

Jessica's Nicole Brown won the grand prize for "Japan: 0.11% Reshaping the Area." The number represents March 11, 2011, when a massive earthquake struck Japan, triggering a deadly tsunami that swept away villages and damaged a nuclear power plant.

The competition challenged young people from all over the world to give a perspective of Japan following last year's devastating disaster.

The winning essays were selected from 186 submissions from 43 countries, the embassy said. Balmes and Brown personally received their prizes in Japan in early January.

Recruited by the Inquirer, Balmes, an honor graduate of the University of the Philippines who is balancing work and graduate studies, wrote from Seoul that he was, at first, "in a state of disbelief because I doubted my knowledge about Japan."

"Though I'm studying international relations for my master's, we rarely discussed Japan—it was always US, China and Europe. So I did my research online but I still did not convinced if I really understood Japan," said Balmes, a 2007 UP magna cum laude graduate.

"So when I received their e-mail [asking] if I was available to go to Tokyo for the awarding ceremony, I read it repeatedly to check if it was true," said Balmes.

He started working on his 4,000-word essay a month before the deadline.

"I almost decided not to join because I thought I was just wasting my time writing a long essay. ... I left my draft overnight for a week then I thought to capitalize my essay based on my three-pronged vision of Japan: entrepreneurial Japan, green Japan and global Japan," he said.

He elaborated this vision in his essay: "Entrepreneurial Japan means that social and medical institutions are given more opportunities to innovate. Green Japan is written entirely for Japan opportunity to set the bar strategic in positioning for a green economy. Global Japan necessitates developing relationships and institutions with a global mind-set. The 3-11 catastrophe should serve as an impetus for radical changes."

The vision earned the nod of the JFTC judging committee, said the embassy.

"...The committee said he framed his argument by saying that Japan needs to become an 'innovation superpower,' and accordingly outlines the potential Japan has in three areas. He concludes his essay by positioning 3-11 as a unique opportunity for Japan to become the 'innovation superpower' he proposes," said the embassy.

In his speech at the awards ceremonies, Balmes also cited Japan's resilience following the worst disaster to hit the nation.

"The profound sense of tragedy among the Japanese has enabled them to rise from the catastrophe with their dignity intact. ... Just as ecological disasters came testament to Japan, the Japanese are naturally born to overcome. Have Gogenbin becomes known proves that resiliency a deeply embedded in the Japanese DNA," Balmes said.

Balmes is due to finish his international relations master's in August. He works as a communications assistant at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Two Interpretation Center and is also a volunteer teacher of Filipino culture to Korean elementary school students in Seoul.

JFTC is an organization of Korean trade firms.

BALMES (fourth from right) and Brown (fourth from left), Japanese Ambassador to Japan Claudio Barnes (third from left) and JFTC chair Shohei Hiraide (second from right) as other JFTC officials

Real leadership lessons are learned outside school

EDUCATION Secretary Armin Luistro will be the keynote speaker of the 24th Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC), which opens on Feb. 9.

Some 91 young leaders, chosen for their involvement in their respective schools or communities as models for students, in excellence, are expected to attend the AYLC.

Luistro is expected to discuss how he sees a position of leadership from being a religious worker, through the relationship and presidency of De La Salle Universities, to education secretary.

Ayala Corp. managing director and AYLC trustee Philip Orbeta says the whole AYLC framework is about servant leadership and so the congress is looking forward to learning about Luistro's personal journey in service and leadership.

Luistro says he is not a born leader, and is not out to choose a position of leadership. "Whenever I find myself in any leadership position, it's always been the opportunity to serve that has commenced," he says, adding his leadership style is to learn the ropes in the process of performing his job.

Luistro believes leadership qualities show in teamwork, especially when a group consists of people with diverse backgrounds and skills. He says, in any work where he has a team of which the leadership, he never thinks of it as his work, but always the team's.

LUISTRO

Luistro's transformational leadership is highlighted as he said his vision of the Department of Education is to empower students in the Philippine educational system, the centerpiece of which is the 0 to 12 program that takes children in the formative years to formal education, including kindergarten, the 6 to 11 also to reform a more elementary and secondary curriculum, further improve board and bilingual education approach to improve class discussion and a more interactive and relevant learning environment.

The new program is expected to promote critical thinking, creativity values and leadership among the youth.

Luistro says educational settings, like classrooms, provide venues for leadership to emerge. They are like laboratories for real life.

But he stresses that, while the school will teach a little of what is in the real world, real lessons of leadership are learned when the students leave the academe.

A life-changing opportunity

KAREN Tan (left) with friends

ESSELLE Tan with her daughter Avery in Moscow

TWO FILIPINO scholars are enjoying a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—living in one of the world's best cities with a diverse culture, while earning their master's degrees in one of the world's best universities.

Through the Ajinomoto Inc. graduate Scholarship Grant, Esselle Grace Lim and Karen Tan are pursuing graduate degrees in applied biological chemistry and food chemistry, respectively.

Lim, the first recipient of the scholarship grant in 2008, has seen the difference between Japanese and Philippine universities, in terms of doing research.

At the University of Tokyo, her Japanese professor encouraged her to conduct research with an innovative application but could provide new knowledge in the scientific field. The idea was new to Lim, who had always thought of doing research that would be readily useful, even profitable.

The 29-year-old alumna of University of Santo Tomas said it was a challenge keeping up with other graduate students' university backgrounds. But she enjoyed being a Filipino in Japan, even teaching her friends some Filipino words.

Tan, the 2011 scholar, said she enjoyed research work at the University of Tokyo because of the instruments available to the students.

She said all the instruments and reagents she needed for her experiments she wanted to do at the University of the Philippines Diliman were not available.

The former instructor and research assistant at UP Manila said her Japanese professors and classmates helped her understand the lessons, which were in Filipino.

Meanwhile, 2012 scholar Melvin Charles Dy is looking forward to beginning his graduate studies in April in applied computer studies. Dy, who is also going to the University of Tokyo, expects to have a challenging and rewarding stay in the university.

After graduation, Lim and Tan are considering joining the academe, while Dy wants to become part of a professional research group developing new technologies to benefit the public.

Applications for the Ajinomoto Postgraduate Scholarship Grant are now accepted. Deadline is on March 28.

A successful applicant will get a full scholarship in science and technology at the University of Tokyo. He/she can enroll either as a research student first then as graduate student (those post-graduate or go directly to a master's course (two-year program).

Other benefits include monthly living allowance, full coverage of examinations, admission and tuition fees, full coverage of Japanese language training, and full coverage of airfare to and from Japan. Call 9109410 or e-mail lchim_tan@ajinomoto.com.ph. Visit ajinomotoscholarship.com.ph.

120 Australian scholarships available for PH students

APPLICATIONS for Australia Awards for Development in the master's and doctoral degree levels for 2013 will be accepted until April 20.

New Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Bill Tweddell said at least 120 graduate and post-graduate scholarships would be available to Filipinos for leading Australian universities.

Tweddell said the Development Awards, through scholarship programs, aims to contribute to the Philippines' long-term development and to strengthen ties between the two countries.

He said Australia placed a high premium on helping improve the Philippines' human capital by increasing access to quality education and training.

Available scholarships would appear include the Australian Development Scholarships and the Australian Leadership Awards administered by Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

In the Philippines, the Australia Awards for Development program coordinates government cooperation programs, giving priority to basic education, social protection and welfare, peace and development, public financial management, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation, capacity development in trade, foreign relations and governance.

Past Australian government scholars include former Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, Bro. Armando, 2008 Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee; and Presidential Daughter, 2010 Presidential Daughter Award awardee.

Tweddell said awardees would experience and benefit from cutting-edge and high-quality education at Australian universities that are consistently among the top educational institutions in the world.

In 2011, eight Australian universities were among the world's top 100 universities, he pointed out.

Australian Consul General Neil Gussey said the Australian Awards for Development program is dedicated to delivering priority development initiatives. The text is open to the public.

Australian Awards for Development Program aimed at study and living expenses. Scholars will join the Philippines-Australia Alumni Association upon their return.

Visit www.australiaawards.gov.au and www.pcdspo.fcg.ph.

CCP BOBCATS WIN SHOWTIME GRAND PRIZE

The multi-talented and three-time national cheerleading champion CCP Bobcats pep squad won a total of P1.5 million in the grand finals of ABS-CBN's "Showtime" Campus Clash Edition.

... The campus P1-million prize money and the other prizes ... Cultural College of the Philippines (CCP), got P500,000.

... Members of the winning team included Pinmel D.S. Abad Jr., Winnie B. Aglibo, Randy F. Bautista, Darwin P. Bolanos, Cecilio E. Calimutan, Maverick B. Carbaj, Marcel R. Carapocsan, Rendie N. Campomanes, John P. Capistrano Jr., Mark Christian Fleet L. Dalisay, Dairon S. Gonzales, Eric B. Eusquio, Hayden W. Galang, Lester John D.C. Go, John Lufino D.C. Go, Jon D. Hi-Dee, Zion Max Librojo, Mark Lorie E. Manuel, Edgar M. Olivario Jr., Marc Michael R. Pedro, Mark Jason D. Rabulo, Ruby Ann E. Ramos, April E. Resurreccion, Jan Carlo E. Santos, Mark Anthony M. Sison, and Ryan Christian Zavalla M. Villanueva.

... CCP president Grippine F. Reyes said, "Central College of the Philippines encourages students to showcase their talents and skills as part of an overall program that aims to promote the comprehensive development of knowledge, personality and character in a fun learning environment. The victory of our team CCP with ECJ proves that the well-engineering graduates giving the best it can in the first try and our CCP Bobcats emerged as true 'Showtime' finalists that included National University, Universidad de San Jose and University of the Philippines..."